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Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/12 - 42,492 (GEM Series). Audited by David Pinder & Co Ltd. Chartered Accountants.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 2014

Out and about with The GEM: Page 12

Making Your House a Home: Pages 15-17

Health, Beauty & Fitness: Pages 18-20

Brides & Grooms - Feature: Pages 22-23

Members of the Shai Foundation recently visited the Mayor to tell her all about their work in Haiti. See the full story on page 6.



Local boxer attacked man in the street

A MAN walking home with a friend, after having a few drinks, was struck once and ended up unconscious and bleeding heavily following an attack in the centre of Barry.

The man who threw the punch, Matthew Rankmore (19) was described as a trained boxer and was sent to a young offender institution for eight months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Rankmore, formerly of Walker Road, Barry, an unemployed chef, had admitted at Cardiff Magistrates Court to causing Mark Williams actual bodily harm and had been committed to the Crown Court for sentence.

Recorder Jeremy Jenkins said at the time, Rankmore had accommodation problems.

"You wounded your victim. You were with a gang singing football slogans, and you were challenged. You caused him very unpleasant and wholly unnecessary injuries."

Rebecca Griffiths, prosecuting, said that on

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

August 17, Rankmore took part in a drunken assault which caused serious injuries at Princes Street, Barry.

Mr Williams, she said, had been out with a friend and was walking home. He had had about four pints and was not drunk.

A gang of about six men, including the defendant, began shouting at them and became aggressive.

One of them tried to calm Rankmore down. The two friends became separated and at one point, Mr Williams pushed Rankmore and walked away.

Mr Williams felt intimidated and the police were contacted. But Rankmore seemed to run at Mr Williams and punched him to the face, causing him to fall to the ground.

Said Ms Griffiths: "A local resident said it was a horrible thing to see and hear."

Mr Williams was unconscious and bleeding heavily. He was given first aid.

Said Ms Griffiths: "The group involved had not been provoked in any way."

Mr Williams was taken to the University Hospital of Wales where he was given a CT scan. He had 19 stitches put in cuts to the head, chin and mouth. A tooth had also to be replanted.

When arrested, Rankmore said he had been shouting Cardiff City chants at the two men.

He claimed Mr Williams said he was a police officer, and could do what he wanted.

Rankmore was said to have convictions for eight offences, including two for assault, for which he was on bail at the time of the attack.

His solicitor, Adam Sharpe, said: "There was what could be described as moderate provocation. Rankmore accepts he caused the situation."

"The attack was not sustained, and there was remorse. His age and his guilty plea are the best mitigating factors."

Rankmore was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

CALL FOR DEFICIT FUNDS TO BE RETURNED

'Transform town with £17.7million boost' - Welsh Government is urged

PRIDE IN BARRY, the organisation that campaigns for the future regeneration of the town, says it hopes the Welsh Government will be providing a £17.7million windfall for future development, writes TIM CHAPMAN.

This March, existing funds for regeneration come to an end, but Paul Haley, the chairman of Pride in Barry, insists the town should still see a multi-million pound boost.

"This year marks the 20-year anniversary of the Barry regeneration project."

"What everybody should be aware of is the 'Barry deficit', which means that the Welsh Government holds a £17.7million profit over and above grants and regeneration from land sales in the town."

"The question is what could we achieve if we have £17.7million back?"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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'WHY HAVE A VALE MAYOR?'

WELL done to Vale councillor Richard Bertin on his suggestion that the role of the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan is abolished.

For many years, we have been wasting tax payers' money paying for a mayor and chauffeur.

With the current financial crisis and the

Vale Council facing further cuts to its budget, the wages and expenses incurred by the Mayor could go a long way to providing much-needed assistance towards the libraries, leisure services etc.

Why have a Mayor? Come on the Vale of Glamorgan, come into the real world and join the rest of us who are being deprived financially.

Keith Brown, Barry.

'Please clean up after your dog!'

BACK in late November/early December, I contacted the Vale Council asking that they address a dog fouling problem on the pavements of St Paul's Avenue, between the entrance of Ysgol Sant Baruc and Trinity Street, Barry.

Outside the school, it is not an uncommon sight to see parents cleaning dog mess off their child's shoes.

Over the short distance between the

school gate and Trinity Street, I regularly count five or more separate piles of mess.

Rather than burden the overstretched local authority, I feel that my energy would be better spent making a direct plea to the dog owners responsible to do the decent thing..

So, if you are walking your dog along these streets, please pick up after your pet!

(Name and address supplied)

HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS

IT is shocking to see that household energy bills have increased by 33 per cent in the last year, exceeding £1,200 per annum and twice the average bill five years ago.

High energy prices in Wales are compounded by poor housing stock quality, low income and poverty.

Nearly a quarter of households in Wales experience fuel poverty, resulting in 320,000 households having to spend 10 per cent or more of their income on energy to heat their homes adequately.

This may result in a choice between heating and powering their homes, as well as eating properly.

In Wales, 50,547 households are in debt to electricity suppliers and 46,588 in debt to gas suppliers.

The impact of fuel

poverty goes beyond financial consequences. It can affect people's health, increasing the risk of common ailments such as colds, flu and respiratory infections including bronchitis.

This has resulted in excess of 1,500 winter deaths per year in Wales, with older people particularly susceptible.

But did your readers know that there is free support to help reduce energy bills?

If you own, or privately rent your home, and you, or someone you live with receives a means-tested benefit – or your working tax credit is below £15,910 a year, you may qualify for support from the Welsh Government's Nest fuel poverty scheme.

Call Freephone 0808 808 2244, log onto advicewales@est.org.uk or write to Nest Programme, Innova One, Tredegar Business Park, NP22 3EL.

Coun Rob Curtis, Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'Take politics out of the Vale LDP'

THE consultation stage of the Local Development Plan has now passed, but what faith can we have that our representations are being properly taken into account?

Take, for example, the recent approval for another 140 houses adjacent to Wenvoe. Desperate council planning officers pulled out all the tricks in the book to produce a recommendation entirely based on the site's inclusion in the draft LDP.

Officers conceded that as an unapproved document, and in line with national planning policy, the draft LDP should carry "little weight", and yet it was determined that these documents should be given more weight than 290 objections sent in by residents.

Also ignored were 267 representations objecting to the site that were submitted for the 2012 version of the LDP, all drawing the council's attention to clear errors and flaws contained within the LDP documents.

The planning committee's vote was quite clearly political. With Wenvoe being a Conservative ward, the Conservative members voted against the development, Labour and Llantwit Independents voted for, and Plaid members abstained.

This month, the same committee meets to decide the housing application for Weycock Cross. It is likely that their decision will be just as political, with Labour desperate to back up their pre-election

We've heard it all before!

POLITICIANS are nothing if not optimistic, particularly when fighting foreign wars; or should I say sending the sons and daughters of others to do so.

David Cameron mistakenly believes that it's "mission accomplished" in Afghanistan.

Dr John Reid, then Labour Minister of Defence, believed we would be in and out of Afghanistan without even firing a shot.

Hitler was convinced

that the Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe would utterly crush the Soviet Union in a matter of six to eight weeks.

Now, as we approach August 2014, one hundred years from the beginning of the 'war-to-end-all-wars', we should recall that the British belief was that it would be over by the first Christmas – how wrong they all were.

However, at some time in the future we will hear such false assumptions yet again. **Christopher Short, Barry.**

'Restore Welsh funding should be petition call'

THE call by Vale MP Alun Cairns in last week's GEM to freeze council tax makes no sense.

He sits in Westminster and votes in favour of cutting Welsh funding by 40 per cent, making an increase in all our council tax bills inevitable.

He then writes in The GEM asking people to support his 'freeze the council tax campaign'.

How can he hope to

freeze these bills, having voted to cut Welsh funding?

He should support his constituents by perhaps organizing a 'restore Welsh funding' petition.

Fair funding for Wales from the UK coalition Government would mean council tax could be frozen – and there would be no need for cuts to the services that the vulnerable rely on.

G Smith, Llantwit Major.

pledges to constituents in their marginal ward – and the Tories just as keen to see them fail.

The problem is that politically-motivated decisions are rarely made in the best interests of the residents of the Vale and invariably result in the views of those residents being ignored.

Across the Vale, residents and groups have spent huge amounts of time and effort in recent weeks to register valid concerns with the LDP and the changes they feel need to be made to the plan.

The very least they deserve is for amendments not to be pre-determined or politically-biased, and for each representation to be genuinely considered on its merits.

Darren Bellamy, Wenvoe.

Dyffryn Gardens says 'thank you'

DYFFRYN Gardens has just celebrated its first year with the well-known charity, the National Trust, and we would like to send our heartfelt thanks to the local community who have supported us through this time.

2013 saw two significant milestones – our transition from Vale of Glamorgan Council to the NT and the opening of part of the house fol-

lowing restoration work in 2012. We have welcomed over 66,000 visitors from January to December – and aim to grow this to over 80,000 for 2014.

This will only be possible with the continuing support of the local community and we do hope you share our pride in developing these beautiful gardens, and that you will join us in growing the nation's love of such special places.

Gerry Donovan, General Manager, Dyffryn Gardens.

Urgent appeal for African village

FOR the past eight years, I have been involved with a registered charity called 'Village Africa Tanzania'.

There is an urgent requirement for unwanted clothing of all sizes – this mountain village can be very cold and wet.

Also needed are unwanted carpentry tools (no power tools) there is no electric, very poor drinking water, no roads, a totally desolate

mountain village.

A sea-container will leave Hereford at the end of January, so my request is rather urgent.

Having visited the village on two separate occasions, I guarantee the items donated will reach the village.

Please contact Roy Gee on 02920515363. We will collect locally in Dinas Powys, Penarth and Barry.

R Gee, Dinas Powys. (www.villageafrica.org.uk)

'Glad to see Gwyn has been honoured'

IWOULD like to congratulate Gwyn John on being recognised in the New Year's Honours List with a BEM.

Over the years, Gwyn has devoted thousands of hours to help the young footballers of Llantwit Major and its surrounding area. He is someone who cares about his community.

I am pleased that someone took the time and trouble to nominate him for the award. **Eileen Bennett, Llantwit Major.**

Concern over schools' future

IAM glad the withheld document on the future of Vale primary schools has now been released.

It should have been released sooner. It is absolutely shocking that members of the public had to rely on a 'leak' to launch a campaign to save their schools.

The report actually recommended that Oak Field, Llanfair and Llanfarcarn should close, but when parents got to hear about this, they stood up and saved these three schools.

So what next? What will happen to the other schools in the area, such as Jenner Park and Colcot? It will be interesting to see just what

the future now holds for them.

We are being told by the Welsh Government that we need to deal with school places, so this matter is still not off the agenda. It is important that parents and staff are kept involved and informed in all future decisions.

Quite a few pupils from the Gibbonsdown area have moved to other schools, due to the problems at Oak Field school – so just what will happen to those schools when parents start to return their children to Oak Field?

Could this mean that both Jenner and Colcot will be next at risk?

Richard Bertin, Barry (Independent councillor, Vale Council).

What to do about food poverty

ON December 18 in the House of Commons, Mr Alun Cairns MP demanded an enquiry into the reasons why so many people need to use Foodbanks.

Bizarrely, he proceeded to vote against a motion calling on the Government to publish the results of its own research into Foodbanks.

He then praised Foodbanks for the work that they do in bringing people back into state support.

Is he aware that the safety net that used to be there to support people in crisis has been removed by the policies he voted for?

There are three things that he can do about food poverty right now:

Firstly, he can ask Iain Duncan Smith to change his mind and

agree to meet the head of the Trussell Trust, which runs most Foodbanks, and understands the reasons why people have to use them.

It predicts that at least one million referrals will be made to Foodbanks in 2014, and needs to know what Iain Duncan Smith, as Minister with responsibility for welfare, intends to do about this.

Secondly, the MP could read the suppressed DEFRA report on our behalf – as we are not being allowed to see it – and he can tell us what it contains that is so important it has to be withheld.

Thirdly, he can find out why his Government has turned down £22 million in EU funding which is there specifically to support Foodbanks, and similar initiatives. **Graham Loveluck-Edwards, Rhooose.**

• Email your letters to The Editor at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk including your FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL JANUARY 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
16 Thur	06.26	9.3	18.52	9.3
17 Fri	07.06	9.4	19.25	9.4
18 Sat	07.37	9.5	19.57	9.3
19 Sun	08.11	9.5	20.29	9.2
20 Mon	08.41	9.3	20.59	9.2
21 Tues	09.11	9.3	21.34	9.0
22 Wed	09.49	8.9	22.09	8.7
23 Thur	10.27	8.6	22.53	8.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

'KARAOKE NIGHTS UNREPRESENTATIVE PORTRAYAL OF THE PEOPLE OF BARRY'

Vale Council leader blasts Channel 4 over 'negative' programme

THE Leader of the Vale Council has written to the broadcaster Channel 4 to emphasise the anger of people in Barry following the programme *Karaoke Nights*.

Producers billed *Karaoke Nights* – shown just before Christmas – as “a portrait of a town through song” that “takes a look at the thriving karaoke scene in Barry”.

It insisted the programme was a fair reflection of the local karaoke scene and that it was broadcast at an appropriate time.

One reader told The GEM he thought the programme gave the impression that Barry was a “dead end town” – with drunk people who used bad language. Another reader said it “sensationalised” poor behaviour of local people.

by TIM CHAPMAN

In his letter to David Abraham, the chief executive of Channel 4, Coun Neil Moore explained that he was writing because constituents had complained to him.

“Although, I did not watch the show, I am advised that it began with one person providing his thoughts on Barry, and thereafter the programme continued in a very negative vein throughout.

“I am very disappointed the programme showed Barry in such a poor light, without showing it in a more positive and realistic manner.”

Coun Moore said the people featured were unrepresentative, and that negative broadcasting gave a false picture of a town that was “backward thinking”.

He invited Channel 4 to return to the town and make a film portraying its positive side.

At the time The GEM broke the story of the controversy, it put readers’ comments to Channel 4, who insisted the programme was fair.

A spokesman said: “The programme offered a fair portrayal of the thriving late night karaoke scene in Barry and was aired in a suitable post-watershed slot”.

Channel 4 is currently embroiled in another controversy involving another of its programmes, ‘Benefits Street’, which is currently being screened on Monday evenings at 9pm. It features James Turner Street in Birmingham, where 95 per cent of people are unemployed and on benefits. Charities have complained it gives an unbalanced picture of claimants.

Suspended jail sentence for cannabis dealer

A self-confessed drugs dealer has been given an 18-week suspended sentence at Cardiff Crown Court.

Kyle Caton (23), was stopped in his car by the police who became aware of the scent of cannabis.

Caton, of Dorothy Close, Barry, pleaded guilty to possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Judge Neil Bidder QC said: “Clearly, punishment within the community is necessary after you were found to have small amounts of cannabis in your car.”

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said: “This man is an admitted cannabis dealer.”

At about 5pm on May 25, Caton was seen driving a VW Golf in Barry, accompanied by his girlfriend. The police stopped the vehicle, smelled cannabis, and found two £10 street deals in the car.

Mr Trigg said that later, in the girlfriend’s home, officers found 14

Report by AJ SICLUNA

£10 deals. Caton said he had put the drugs in her handbag, totally without her knowledge.

Text messages on his phone were analysed and gradually, “the whole picture unravelled,” added Mr Trigg.

He said Caton would buy cannabis in ounces and thereafter sell £10 deals.

The text messages, he continued, indicated Caton was a dealer.

He was said to have previous convictions for assault, dishonest han-

dling, and a public order offence.

The court was told that he had no convictions for drug offences.

Judge Bidder said that when interviewed, Caton had been extremely frank with the police and admitted dealing to about 15 friends.

He said he used the profits to pay off debts.

In addition to the suspended sentence, he was made subject to a supervision order for a year, directed to carry out 150 hours unpaid work, and to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

Spate of thefts brings warning

FOLLOWING a *spate* of thefts from cars, police in Penarth are warning motorists to ensure their vehicles are locked.

The incidents in Penarth, Sully and Dinas Powys, involved vehicles when doors were left unlocked, or windows partly open.

Items such as sat navs, mobile phones and hand-

bags were stolen. The warning came from Penarth neighbourhood sergeant Ioan Jones: “If you see anyone acting suspiciously near parked vehicles in your area, please do not hesitate to report it to the police on 101.”

“It is by working together that we can continue to keep the area safe.”

‘WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!’

PLEA FOR £17.7MILLION CASH RETURN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Haley believes that sort of sum could help spark major projects in the town – a marina, undercover attractions on Barry Island, a new college campus at the Waterfront and water sports facilities – because it would lever in further investment and grants.

Mr Haley said he believed that with current funding coming to an end, it was time for a fresh approach which was “community-led and focused on outcomes”.

He said: “I’d call on

all Barrians and community groups to ask the Welsh Government to return the £17.7million to help regenerate our community.”

Mr Haley believes that Barry has significant advantages over many inland locations that seek regeneration funding – the docks, the Island and coastal locations would be self-sustaining economically if major projects were delivered.

According to Mr Haley, the ‘Barry Balance Sheet’ reads like this:

Assembly receipts

from land sales were £14.5 million and the Waterfront land sale raised £60 million – a total of £74.5 million.

Public money spent by the WDA was £47million, and added to the Barry Regeneration Fund (£9.8million), it totals £56.8million.

That leaves £17.7mil-

lion which he says the Welsh Government could give back to the town.

It appears money raised in Barry has been funding projects elsewhere in Wales.

• The GEM put Mr Haley’s points to the Welsh Assembly Government and a

spokesman said: “The sale of land took place a number of years ago and any money raised would have been used to fund projects across Wales, in line with normal budgetary practice.”

Penarth Burglary: POLICE APPEAL

POLICE are appealing following a burglary at a house on St Mark’s Road in Penarth between 1pm and 3pm on Monday January 13, when access was forced via the side kitchen door and the security alarm disabled.

A large quantity of jewellery and foreign currency including US dollars, Euros and Trinidad and Tobago dollars was taken.

Among the stolen jewellery was a Klaus Kobeck wristwatch with a distinctive blue stone in the crown, a triple diamond set engagement ring set in 18 carat gold, a diamond solitaire ring, a diamond and sapphire 18 carat gold ring with matching earrings, a nine carat gold gents wedding ring, a 22 carat gold plain

wedding band, a Welsh gold daffodil pendant with a gold chain, a silver onyx and jade set necklace, a silver heart-shaped locket, a silver circular locket and a gold heart-shaped locket and chain, a pair of gold horse-shoe shaped earrings, a silver charm bracelet and a gold gate bracelet.

Detective sergeant Chris Warner of Barry CID said: “This burglary took place in the middle of the afternoon and there would have been a considerable amount of noise caused during the break-in. If you have been offered any of this jewellery or foreign currency please contact the police on 101 immediately.”

Contact Barry CID on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and quote reference 62140012368.

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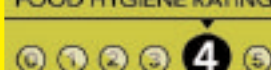
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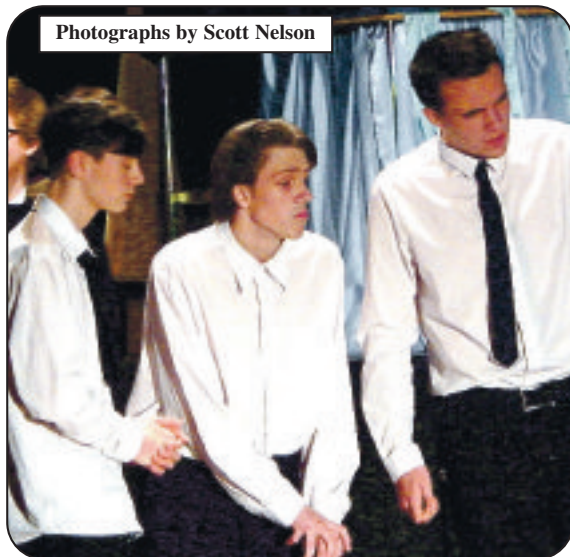
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There is 'Much Ado' at Barry Comprehensive!

Photographs by Scott Nelson



Claudio, Leonato and Don Pedro – 'I think Benedick is angry'

RECENTLY, Barry Comprehensive School took part in the UK's biggest youth drama festival.

A selection of students from years 11, 12 and 13 performed *Much Ado About Nothing* in the Shakespeare Schools Festival 2013, at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff.

On the night, the GCSE and A-Level theatre studies students performed to a packed audience and had the time of their lives. Every detail of the production was finely tuned.

Full of comedy and fun, all the characters were brought to life and Shakespeare's words flowed confidently. The audience absolutely loved the production which realised their sons' and daughters' potential to perform Shakespeare

in a professional theatre.

Barry Comprehensive School carries a flag for Shakespeare's verse and being part of the festival was only one of the many projects that the drama department are involved in as part of its ongoing crusade to raise literacy levels and awareness that Shakespeare is, as ever, available for all ages and abilities.

Our students certainly challenged themselves and discovered their talents and they are proud to be part of the 'Shakespeare Generation.'

A huge thank you to a very talented cast and all the staff at the Wales Millennium Centre. Thank you for making their dreams come true – acting on a professional stage and speaking the words of the great Bard himself!

AC



Don Pedro (Tim Glossop), Don John (Vincent Saunders) and Claudio (Connor Roberts) – 'I tell you, the lady is disloyal.'

Barry Men's Forum learn about the human cost of Somme slaughter

THE speaker at last week's Barry Men's Forum was Mr Gavin Davies, who gave an extremely interesting talk to over 50 members about 'The Battle of the Somme'.

Due to a lack of

trained soldiers and equipment, it was not until July 1916 that the Allied plans to break through the German lines at Somme were able to start in earnest – but to disastrous effect.

The British had 500 heavy guns and 1,500 field guns, which fired

shrapnel, similar to a shotgun. But the Germans were well bunkered down, and when the foot soldiers started their advance, the enemy came out of their dugouts with their machine guns and mowed our soldiers down.

Gavin went on to relate in detail the various advances made, along the line, and when the major battle of the Somme ended three months later, the gains the Allies had made were minimal.

He demonstrated this with a map of Barry,

where part of the front line was superimposed on the outskirts of the town and he then showed the relative advances made, i.e. as far as Dinas Powys, and Wenvoe.

The major gain was a bulge about eight miles, almost reaching to the motorway at Miskin.

The British numbers killed in this offensive were 120,000 men, almost equivalent to all the people now living in the Vale of Glamorgan, with 420,000 casualties – more than the population of Cardiff.

The French losses were 200,000 men, and the Germans were half a million men. A sobering thought.

The Barry Men's Forum meet every Thursday morning at 10.15am until noon at the new Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall in Aberystwyth Crescent.

On Thursday, January 23, the speaker will be Mrs Jeanne Harvey whose talk will be about 'Hell in Paradise'.

For further information, contact 02920 594881. PMW

GEORGE ORWELL in '1984' gave us Big Brother. In 2014, we are getting Big Data. Should we be worried about it?

Is it good for us or interfering with our privacy? Yes and yes. The debate is warming up.

What is Big Data and where did it come from? In fact it has been around for some time, but now developing apace.

It is the accumulation of vast quantities of little bits of information gathered by modern technology that can analyse it fast enough to make it useful commercially and socially.

Your corner shopkeeper would get to know his customers well and order stock according to their wants. This was a local situation.

His suppliers would get a broader picture as they supplied many shops. Manufacturers would get a national picture... and so on. But all this information took time to filter up through the system.

Now, supermarkets have electronic tills linked to stock control systems and real-time information so that by closing time they know exactly what they have sold and act on the information. Computers have enabled the high-speed system.

The census gives information to our government. Because the

NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

information can be rapidly (and relatively inexpensively) processed, there is a temptation to ask more questions. It is at this point that people start to worry.

A general election is an opinion sample of about half of the adult population and produces a government (usually).

That data is a small quantity by comparison with the millions of shopping baskets each week; of the entries made on social websites each day and the many, many innocuous activities that take place on the web hour by hour.

Medical people can monitor the spread of disease by monitoring the number of queries about it on-line and make an earlier response to the problem. The same sort of monitoring is now being used to advise the film studios on what makes a good film. Experts can watch a film about to be released and forecast how much it will take at the box office. One com-

pany can simply read a script and based on much research of responses to films already released (over many years) and advise the studio whether it is worth making.

Interestingly, they apply hundreds of criteria in the process and, as long as the lead actor is reasonably competent as an actor, a "big name" is not necessary to ensure a profitable response from the public.

When you go on-line and comment about a film, be aware that you might just be reducing the chance that your favourite actor appears in the next one.

Big Data will impinge on your lifestyle. In 2010 the industry was worth over \$100 billion.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 28 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30pm for 8pm. Topic to be announced. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

VFS

Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service

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African choir heads for Vale

THE African Children's Choir will be at The Memorial Hall, Barry on March 22 for a fundraising concert at 7pm. Tickets, adults £6 – under-12s £4.

The choir is made up of children from some of the poorest countries of the world who have lost one or both parents to poverty or disease. Since its inception in 1984 over 52,000 children have been educated through the efforts of the choir and over 100,000 people have been helped through their relief and development projects.

Their voices have been heard by world leaders and top entertainers, and they performed the official Diamond Jubilee song 'Sing' composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gary Barlow at the most publicised event and celebration in the world, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Further information and tickets are obtainable from Graham Ellis on 01446 749659, email ellisgraham@tiscali.co.uk.

Choirs of Barry concert for charity

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, announces a 'Choirs of Barry' concert will be held on Friday, February 28 at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir, Barry Choral Society and guest soloist Jodi Bird.

Tickets £5, obtainable from the offices of Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA. All proceeds go to Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund, the Mayor's nominated charities.

For more information, contact 01446 704921, or e-mail juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Read your GEM online at barry-today.co.uk

"SOME PEOPLE WILL STEAL ANYTHING..."

Disgust as a sneak thief steals Spot's 'cat chalet'

A BARRY woman returned home to find someone had jumped over her fence and stolen her cat kennel - and was then told by a neighbour that he'd seen a man with a hoodie carrying it up Main Street!

It has left Sylvia Archer's black and white moggie called Spot temporarily without an outdoor home and spending daylight hours in a dustbin laid on its side.

Sylvia told The GEM she couldn't believe that someone was so desperate that they had to steal a cat kennel.

"Spot is an outdoor cat and loves the kennel. She likes to sleep in it during the day, coming into the house at night.

by GEM REPORTER



ABOVE: Sylvia captured this image of Spot with the cat chalet before its disappearance.

"On New Year's Day we were away and my brother was feeding the cats. He came in the morning and everything was normal, but at tea

time, the kennel had gone. It was a good quality wooden kennel with a felt roof - a cat chalet."

Sylvia has reported the matter to Barry Police, but accepts it is not the most pressing matter for the forces of law and order.

"A neighbour did see a man with a hoodie walking up Main Street carrying it, but didn't make a connection at the time.

"I can't believe that someone is so desperate that if they have a cat or a dog, they can't get a kennel themselves.

"People seem to steal anything. "It is disappointing for Spot because she loved it - she now sits where it used to be."

If someone does know where the kennel is, they can contact the police by dialling 101.

THE Welsh Government has ordered a review into the so-called 'ghost bus service' which runs from Cardiff Airport into the capital three times an hour.

The T9 bus has been dubbed the 'MT9' by frustrated locals, who have seen their own Vale routes being cut back.

Now, a transport expert, Professor Stuart Cole, will scrutinise whether there should be changes to how it operates.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "It was always the intention to review the service after it had been operational for a few months, and the Minister has asked Professor Stuart Cole to examine whether any revisions to the current service are required without compromising its principal objectives as an express service.

"Professor Cole is due to report back shortly."

The GEM understands that could be as early as the end of the month or the beginning of February.

The regional Assembly Member, Andrew RT Davies, has called on the Welsh Government to open the service up to Vale residents en route to make it economic. Currently, it is a through service from the airport into Cardiff.

The Welsh Government would be loath to drop the service because a link between Wales' only international airport and the country's capital is considered vital.

'EXPENSIVE' Mr Davies said: "The

fact that Professor Cole has been summoned to undertake a review of the T9 service tells you a lot about how the Minister feels it is performing.

"As a local resident I regularly see this bus, invariably empty except for the driver.

"At almost half a million in Welsh Labour Government subsidy that's an exceptionally

by TIM CHAPMAN

expensive service to support, and on current passenger numbers is simply unsustainable.

"I would urge Professor Cole to look into ways of making this bus available to local residents who are currently barred from using it.

"Rhoose is one of south Wales' largest villages and yet residents have been left overnight without a bus service.

"Salt is further rubbed into the wound when you consider the combined cost of the T9 shuttle with the service linking Rhoose train station with the airport - almost £600,000 in public money.

"Many other routes servicing the Vale have also disappeared following cuts to operator grants, and it must be distressing to see those routes withdrawn whilst this publicly-funded 'ghost train' keeps on swallowing cash."

Rhoose doesn't have a direct bus service into Cardiff and some residents have called for the T9 to make a detour into the village once an hour.

Insight into work of Amelia Trust

THE speaker at Sully U3A's January meeting was Lorraine Brown, director of Amelia Trust Farm, a Deacon in the Methodist Church and formerly a Minister in Swansea.

The farm was set up 24 years ago and is a working farm of 160 acres in the Vale. The core objective is to support and educate vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

This is done through fun and work-based activities. Referrals are made by Social Services and educational services. Most of the young people involved are between 11 and 18 and they are encouraged to learn new skills and develop their potential.

They work with farm animals and can learn new skills like pottery.

The 20 trained staff are supported by over 100 volunteers. Last year 126 young people were helped by the trust.

She was thanked by chairman, Gill Mathias.

The next meeting will be on February 13 at The Old School, Sully at 2 pm, when Sheena Crossley will be talking on planning ahead in the garden.

Sheena is a well-known broadcaster and writer. New members are welcome to drop in to listen to Sheena and find out what Sully U3A's various groups have to offer. SC

Inspiring talk by a Paralympic star

ON January 7, Mark Colbourne, MBE, the Welsh gold and double silver medalist at the London 2012 Paralympic games was guest speaker at the Dinas Probus Club.

He was part of Team GB cycling and competed in category C1, the most disabled grouping. Mark won individual silver in the 1km time trial, then gold in the 3km pursuit, setting a new world record, all on the first day.

He then followed this with a silver in the 10-mile road time trial.

Born in Tredegar, he excelled at sport in school and later became obsessed with paragliding.

Tragically, one day while flying over Rhossili cliffs, a rogue gust of wind caused his canopy to collapse and he fell 40 feet to the ground and was then dragged 100 feet.

He believes this was the cause of the injuries he sustained.

His spine had snapped and he showed the members a photo of the X-ray. He was 40 years old. After 94 days lying on his back, he decided that he was ready to "close my eyes for good" but, fortunately, a physiotherapist suggested he

try out an exercise bike. This changed his life as he realised that he still had some body strength that he could use.

He worked every day in the gym for three months and when his performances on a bike became noticed, he was invited to take part in a Cycle Challenge Wales event, a 523-mile seven-day ride around Wales.

This required squeezing to an invitation to join the training squad at the Newport Velodrome, where he spent two years before being offered a trial with Team GB Cycling with a view to a place on the final Paralympic team.

This required squeezing a five-year fitness plan into the two years available - with a strict regime of no chocolate, alcohol or parties.

The result was a world road racing silver medal in Denmark in 2011 only two years after his accident, in 2012 a gold medal in Los Angeles, and then the three medals in London 2012.

In 2013, he was awarded an MBE for services to cycling. He didn't tell his mother, she only found out about it from a neighbour which made her very cross.

He retired from professional cycling in 2013 and now travels all over

the UK giving motivational talks to all age groups.

He always takes as his starting point his father's attitude to life which was instilled in Mark as a boy - never give up on a dream, always try and get to that extra inch; winners never quit, quitters never win; think about what you can do, not what you can't; be the best you can be, even if you are not the best.

...Remember, we are all born happy, some people choose to be unhappy...

The vote of thanks was given by John Williams. CR

NEW WEIGHT ADVICE GROUP

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First, in partnership with Newydd Housing Association and Public Health Wales, are launching a FREE weight management group at Barry Leisure Centre, open to anyone living in the town.

The group will get the chance to learn about what food is included in a balanced diet, how to create and follow a healthy food plan, how to increase weight loss through physical activity, and how to interpret food labels.

Barry Communities First is a Welsh Government funded anti-poverty programme aimed at improving the health, prosperity and learning of residents in parts of Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown.

For more information contact 01446 709432.

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2. Free Choice Cheese, tomato and 4 toppings of your choice	9.99	13.99	15.99
3. Hawaiian Mushroom, pineapple and ham (extra cheese)			
4. Vegetarian Mushroom, sweetcorn, onion, peppers and fresh tomato			
5. Vegetarian Hot Mushroom, fresh chilli, onion and peppers			
6. Mexican Spicy beef, spicy chicken, jalapeno and peppers (extra cheese)			
7. Pepperoni Passion Double pepperoni, double cheese			
8. Kebab Special Chicken and doner kebab, onion & peppers (extra cheese)			
9. Meat Feast Pepperoni, spicy beef, spicy chicken, meatballs & ham (extra cheese)			
10. Chicken Combo Chicken tikka, roast chicken, Chinese chicken & tandoori chicken			
11. Hot Shot Pepperoni, salami, jalapeno, onion, peppers & garlic butter			
12. American Hot Pepperoni, onion, spicy beef & fresh chilli (extra cheese)			
13. Tikka Tikka Onion, chicken, tikka, peppers, American spicy sausage & mushroom			
14. Romeo's Tandoori Mushroom, onion, tandoori chicken & peppers			
15. Seafood Tuna, prawns, anchovies, olives & onion (extra cheese)			
16. London Pizza BBQ sauce, pepperoni, spicy beef, onion & American spicy sausage			
17. Paris Pizza BBQ sauce, roast chicken, smoky bacon, onion & peppers			
18. Doner Pizza BBQ sauce & doner slices (extra cheese)			
19. Romeo Meatball Spicy sausage, onion, meatball, pepperoni & green peppers			
20. Chicken Special Spicy chicken, Chinese chicken, onion, fresh tomato & peppers			
21. Romeo Special Pepperoni, BBQ chicken, onion, mushroom & peppers (extra cheese)			

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Jail sentence for 'thoroughly dishonest' man

A FRAUDSTER described as a "thoroughly dishonest man" has been jailed for 18 months at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Darryl Baldwin-Skeet bought a vehicle from a Chepstow dealer using false details, said prosecutor Lowri Wynn Morgan.

Baldwin-Skeet (31) of Meadow Rise, Brynna, is currently serving two-and-a-half years for fraud, and the 18-month sentence will be served concurrently.

Ms Wynn Morgan said Mr Lee Richards owned a garage business in Chepstow, and it was struggling.

In January last year, the defendant contacted him concerning buying a Kia Sportage for sale on eBay.

Baldwin-Skeet bought it for £1,295 using a credit card.

Mr Richards delivered the vehicle to Pencoed Cabs. The defendant was out on a taxi run at the time.

But on February 21, Mr Richards' bank contacted him and indicated the credit card had been stolen, and that the payment was invalid.

It appeared that the card belonged to a Miss Nicola Jones, who had no idea how Baldwin-Skeet had obtained her details.

The vehicle concerned was sold on to a man in Pencoed, and a profit of £600 was made.

When arrested, Baldwin-Skeet said: "No comment to all questions," said Ms Wynn Morgan.

Mr Richards said in a statement that he had bought the garage with redundancy money. The fraudulent transaction, he

said, had caused him to face bankruptcy.

The court was told that Baldwin-Skeet had convictions for 81 offences, 33 for fraud, and kindred offences. He also had several convictions for theft.

Eugene Egan, for Baldwin-Skeet said the present offence involved only a single transaction. He was due to be released from his two-and-a-half year sentence in November.

Said Recorder Jeremy Jenkins: "I have to sentence you yet again for yet another offence of fraud."

"You are nothing more than a thoroughly dishonest man. You used information you had stolen to purchase the vehicle and left a man on the verge of bankruptcy."

Baldwin-Skeet was ordered to pay £100 victim surcharge.

BARRY MAYOR HEARS OF HAITI RESCUE EFFORTS



ABOVE:

Hilary Brown with the Mayor and members of the Shai Foundation.

Bus preservation group adds a 'first' to its collection

CARDIFF Transport Preservation Group which restores old buses at The Bus Depot in Barry is adding its first Merthyr Tydfil bus to its collection.

The new addition is 48 years old and currently stored under cover near Hereford. The old bus, Merthyr Tydfil fleet number 142, registered CHB407D, is a 1966 Leyland Titan PD 3 half-cab double decker with seating for 73.

Mike Taylor, chairman of the group, said: "This bus will be another important addition to our collection as we aim to have examples from all the different main south Wales Valley bus operators from the last century in our collection."

"This bus was withdrawn from Merthyr Tydfil Corporation in 1977, that is 37 years ago, and we did not have a vehicle representing this important valley town."



The bus in about 1968 at Cardiff Bus Station.



The bus at the turn of the century when kept at Dowlais.

Artist's work hung in RCA exhibition



LOCAL artist Nick John Rees is seen here at the private view of the Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts' open exhibition in Conwy, where he had both his submissions accepted.

Prior to the death of Sir Kyffin Williams RA, Nick became friendly with the celebrated Welsh artist, who encouraged him to become involved in the RCA.

Nick's work is in collections as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe.

Did you know you can read your GEM online? barry-today.co.uk

Ramblers in the rain!

AS the Festival of Winter Walks trundled on, despite the unseasonal bad weather conditions, Geraint and his sheepdog Patch played host to a group of three Penarth and District Ramblers at a very windy and

wet Cold Knap.

The wind annihilated one umbrella as they walked the promenade prior to circumnavigating the lake, where wildfowl were bobbing up and down on the choppy waves.

Climbing through Birch Grove Wood, they followed the narrow path that runs through the centre of the Garden Suburb

to Porthkerry where underfoot conditions were muddy, slippery and wet.

Tramping through the Millwood, they reached Porthkerry Park and later climbed the Golden Stairs on their way back to their start.

Ann had better luck a few days later on a tour of Cardiff Bay but the 18-strong group with dogs Bracken and Bronte were lulled into a false sense of security because the dry conditions with no mud underfoot eventually turned into heavy rainfall which came on halfway around the trail.

Crossing the River Ely and trekking around the edge of Cardiff Bay and then the River Taff at Clarence Road Bridge before entering Hamadryad Park and passing below the A4232, their journey led through the wetlands reserve.

There was a mad dash for a quick coffee break near the Mermaid Quay. Emerging into the wetness, sights were hurriedly passed before crossing the barrage which finally allowed the public to walk across in June 2008 in order to complete the circular tour.

A huge variety of boats was crammed into the safety of Penarth Marina as the very wet group headed back towards Cogan Leisure Centre.

On January 18, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate circular walk from Southerndown taking in lunch at the Plough and Harrow pub, Monknash; contact Robin on 02920 514051.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 255102.

JS

Samantha B

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TORIES SEIZE ON LDP PROBLEMS AS THE WELSH GOVERNMENT DOES LABOUR PARTY NO FAVOURS

THE Vale Council has denied that a letter from the Welsh Government (WG) commenting on the Local Development Plan (LDP) has given it a headache.

In the letter, WG planners cast doubts on the viability of some housing projects (particularly in the rural Vale) but go on to demand that another 900 homes be included in the Vale.

The consultation on the draft LDP ended on December 20 and as part of the process, the Welsh Government responded with a 15-page letter criticising a number of elements of the proposals.

Vale MP Alun Cairns has seen the letter and told The GEM that he is "most concerned" that the Welsh Government has called for an additional allocation of 950 houses – from 10,000 up to 10,950.

Many readers will find the letter confusing, because it offers hope to protesters and then dashes them.

For instance, much protest in the Vale has centred on whether the WG's own population projections for the Vale were accurate.

It was argued that if these were to be downgraded, then the number of houses to be built could also be scaled back.

In the letter, the WG does indeed say that the population projections indicate a "potential downward trend".

However, the WG says that the Vale Council should be planning for econom-

ic growth. In a telling phrase, it says: "It would be inappropriate to plan to replicate a period of economic decline."

"The level of housing is not considered sufficient to deal with changing circumstances, particularly if sites were to be delayed."

It seems that some of those sites that the WG feels could be delayed are in the rural Vale. Cowbridge and Llantwit residents could well be encouraged by that, as the WG points to infrastructure problems in Cowbridge, particularly sewage, and flooding problems on allocated land in Llantwit Major.

However, the WG letter goes on to say: "It may be necessary to allocate additional housing sites in the Key Settlement (Barry) and the Service Centre Settlements (Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth)."

Alun Cairns is calling on local campaign groups that have been established to contact their five Assembly Members to oppose any expansion.

Mr Cairns has also called on the Vale Council to respond in a forceful way.

He said, "The letter from the WG is exceptionally strong and critical. It is explicit in its criticisms of the delivery of the plan and says that the 'scale of growth is insufficient'. I am very concerned that it is calling for 'additional sites will be required to ensure the plan makes sufficient provision'."

"The letter even underlines the phrase

by PHILIP IRWIN

of housing numbers being an "absolute minimum". It goes on to question the rationale for shifting developments from Barry to the rural Vale and seeks further explanations.

"The Welsh Government also expresses doubts over the delivery of some housing developments, because of the lack of sewerage and drainage capacity. It states that some will not be viable because of the extra costs."

"The letter raises serious questions about plans to build in areas that could be prone to flooding, and names Eglwys Brewis specifically."

The Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies AM, also seized on the statement in the WG letter, saying that household numbers are to fall by 2,800 from initial projections, and called for a reduction in development on green spaces in the Vale.

He said: "For the Welsh Government to call into question the delivery and viability of the plan suggests real problems, and the implication that the document has not been thoroughly enough evidenced is embarrassing."

"The sole crumb of comfort I can pick out of the wreckage is the confirmation, as expected, that household projections are to fall – perhaps by as much as 2,800 homes."

"This Labour council has to date seemed determined to tarmac over the green bits of the Vale, targeting villages such as Wenvoe, Bonvilston and St Nicholas for greater development."

"In spite of the letter's assertion that greater development may be required, I do hope that these figures will lead to an acknowledgement by the council that development on the scale currently being suggested is unsustainable, not to mention devastating to the Vale's natural beauty."

Alun Cairns added: "Questions are also posed around the policy for gypsy and traveller provision. This is an issue that has raised a number of concerns to many people."

There was a robust response from Coun Lis Burnett, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Innovation, Planning and Transportation

She said: "I am astonished at the comments from Alun Cairns MP and Andrew RT Davies AM, but not surprised, as yet again they unashamedly attempt to make political capital where there is none to be gained."

"As part of the LDP consultation, the council has received several representations to the deposit draft plan from public bodies, including those from the Welsh Government."

"All representations received by the December 20 deadline are currently

being recorded and entered onto a database and will publicly available in the near future. All representations, including those from members of the public, will be fully considered and until then it is premature to comment on specific representations."

"However, the council's officers have already met with WG officials to discuss progress on the LDP, at which time there was a discussion on the representations received."

"The letter has not given the council a headache as suggested, and it is interesting to note that there are no 'Category A' objections (the most significant category into the soundness of the plan), unlike the previous unsustainable version produced by the previous administration."

"The current plan is also backed by an independent sustainability assessment that ranks it as being more sustainable than the previous Conservative administration version."

"The emotive language used by individuals supposedly in positions of responsibility suggests at best an over emphasis of the comments of WG officials and at worst a total lack of understanding of the plan making process."

The letter is available online at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/development-plans/ourrole/local-development-plans-official-responses/vale-of-glamorgan/?lang=en>

Extra Care takes shape

THE first 'extra care' in the Vale which will provide supported accommodation for people over 55, has received a visit from Welsh Government Minister for Finance, Jane Hutt, who was "impressed" with the progress being made on the development, which is nearing completion and is due to open in the summer.

The scheme is being developed by Hafod Care Association, part of the Hendre Group, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and will provide 42 new affordable homes for rent to people over the age of 55 living in the Vale.

The scheme will include a restaurant, laundry, hairdresser and a multi-use activity/atrium space and will incorporate a feature glass façade to the front staircase designed by the architectural glass artist, Kate Maestri.

The Minister, who is also the AM for the Vale, was joined on January 10 by Coun Bronwen Brooks, Vale Council cabinet member for housing, building services and community safety, on a visit to the partly completed scheme on Broad Street, Barry.

Schoolchildren go on an RNLI mission in Barry!



Pupils enjoyed their outing in Barry recently – as these pictures show!

CHILDREN at Dosbarth Derwen and Dosbarth Colleen recently enjoyed a trip to start the new term.

Both classes were lucky enough to visit the RNLI Centre in Barry before going to Barry Island beach. The children had an opportunity to see and try on clothes that have been used both in the past and at present while being an RNLI volunteer.

They were also able to watch a video filmed from a helmet perspective of an actual rescue mission! After seeing the full kit and changing rooms, the children were able to see the Lifeboat in the harbour.

Next, the children enjoyed a picnic lunch on the front in Barry Island, before going to collect shells, stones, seaweed and driftwood to take back to class. A great day was had by all!

Barry surgery

AN advice surgery will be held by David Melding AM, Conservative Assembly Member for the South Wales Central region, on Friday, January 24, at 29 High Street, Barry between 10am and 12pm. No appointment is necessary.

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Hip op story with a happy ending

IHAVE been concerned to read in newspapers how some private hospitals appear to have been giving poor service and to have been prohibitively expensive, because many seem to have foreign owners, whose main purpose seemed to be to make money.

I was also concerned and disappointed to have seen a colleague complaining on television of his extremely unpleasant experience of the same operation as I had in a local hospital. I had my operation in Bridgend Clinic, and my experience was quite different. My tale was that I had a hip dislocated in 1974, when a Land Rover lost control on a corner on a wet country road, and crashed into the offside front of my car, which I had already pulled into my side of the road and stopped.

After my resulting hip dislocation was reduced (replaced into position under anaesthetic in hospital), I was persuaded to stay in hospital 'under traction' for six weeks, with a weight pulling the immobilised leg away from its socket to save the joint's cartilage from dying.

It was explained that unless I did this, about 12 years later I would lose the last of the cartilage in this joint, which would be very uncomfortable.

Some 35 years later, a chiropractor, who was treating my leg discomfort, said she suspected that I had lost the last of my cartilage in this hip joint, and that I should arrange to have an x-ray.

The x-ray confirmed her diagnosis, so I asked the NHS medical practice I attended to arrange treatment. They

told me that there was a waiting list for NHS surgery for this operation.

The wait was one year for an orthopaedic consultant surgeon's appointment, and another year before the operation for a new joint. I had a lot of pain.

My wife and I considered having it done privately, so I went to the Bridgend Clinic – a private treatment mini-hospital at the back of Bridgend's Princess of Wales Hospital.

The receptionist there managed to find a highly-recommended consultant orthopaedic surgeon before he left the hospital, and I had my consultation within the hour.

I was admitted to the clinic a week later, had the operation, had personal, pleasant and expert nursing in a meticulously-clean single room with TV, and I came home a week later, repaired.

It took a while for me to get into good balance, as my joint had been deteriorating for several years. The main complication apart from initial stiffness was sciatica on the other side – but the chiropractor at Llantwit Major Chiropractic Clinic, who had made a special study of muscle problems and 'triggers' at the University of Glamorgan, was able to clear this up, so that my walking has gone from strength to strength.

My operation, bed, nursing, crutches, home loo-seat, care and after-care (in fact, everything) cost a total of £8,000, which, fortunately, I was able to afford. This restored my life; I thought it was excellent value.

Any profit the clinic makes gets ploughed back into the NHS, so my operation was to the common good. **ROBIN EGGLESTON, Ogmere-by-Sea.**

CHORAL MUSIC IS HEARD AGAIN AT DYFFRYN HOUSE

PHOTOS by IAN DIXON

RIGHT:
This is the sort of show that works on two levels!

CHORAL music returned to Dyffryn House on Wednesday, December 18, after a gap of almost two decades, when local choir 'Caritas' performed in the Great Hall.

The full house enjoyed an enthralling range of Christmas music, ranging from John Tavener and Gabrieli to traditional airs.

The choir sang from both the hall and the music gallery to stunning effect (see photo, top right) while musical director Lindsay Gray conducted one of his own compositions.

The Dyffryn staff pulled out all the stops to ensure that the concert was a success, despite the pre-Christmas storms, and provided the audience with a memorable evening, – with all proceeds going to charity.



CLARY WOWS WI IN PANTO!

FRIENDS and Neighbours got their 2014 programme off to an excellent start with a visit by 30 members to Cardiff New Theatre to see *Jack And The Beanstalk*.

Julian Clary, as 'Spirit Of the Beans,' wowed the audience with his star-of-stage entrance in a glitzy rocket and his amazing costumes.

Mike Doyle, as Dame Stacy Trott, had everyone amused with his cross-dressing larger-than-life funnyman, this being his first appearance in panto as a Dame.

All in all, it was an excellent afternoon out and transport by Vale emergency transport services made it possible for the group to be taken direct to theatre and not have to use public transport.

The group are looking forward to their busy 2014 programme, with a spring and summer trip already arranged.

Contact on 01446 400044 for further information. **GF**



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WELCOMING MORE NEW PUBLIC INVESTMENTS TO REVITALISE THE VALE

AT a time of major constraints on our public finances, I know that the investment of Welsh Government funding in new public services and facilities will be welcomed.

A visit to the new Extra Care scheme in Barry last week with Coun Bronwen Brooks provided the opportunity for us to meet Hafod Care and the contractor, Leadbitter, who are responsible for this development of 42 new affordable homes for people over the age of 55 living in the Vale.

The Welsh Government has provided £5m grant funding for the new facility, which will be called Golau Caredig.

Over the next few months, the residents of Barry will see for themselves what this investment will deliver – a landmark building in the heart of Barry with 21st century facilities, exceeding the expectations of residents, families and the wider public – due to be completed in July.

There are Extra Care schemes throughout Wales and the Vale will now benefit from this £5m investment to meet our local needs.

As well as achieving the Excellent BREEAM (Environmental Assessment)

rating, the homes will provide spacious kitchen, living room and bedroom areas with a walk-in shower and disabled access.

As well as a multi-use activity space, a restaurant on the top floor, there will be a cafe, hairdresser and laundry on the ground floor, open to the public, on the Broad Street area where the former shops and businesses were located.

52 HOMES

Just down the road we were welcomed by Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd Housing and the Jehu Group, who are building 52 new affordable homes on the site of the former Magistrates Court in Thompson Street.

Once again, this is a further sign of commitment by the Welsh Government to invest in housing in the centre of Barry, providing a Social Housing Grant of over £3m for these much needed homes in the Vale.

As we viewed the plans for the development we will told by Jehu managers that they were now actively recruiting apprentices and local people to work on this site, providing much-needed construction jobs and experience in the short term, as well as homes in the long term, all contributing to the regeneration of Barry.

Before Christmas, we

announced the £2m for the new Barry Island road.

SCHOOLS

A few weeks before that, the Vale cabinet member for children and young people, Coun Chris Elmore, announced the latest plans for 21st century school building development in the Vale with substantial Welsh Government funding, including investment in Barry.

The Nant Talwg School is just one example with building, as well as new Flying Start provision.

Currently, there is multi-million pound's worth of investment in Barry providing jobs, housing, education and roads which is good news for the largest town in Wales, a town I am proud of, as a resident and Assembly Member for the Vale.

This is good for the whole of my constituency, as we work hard to improve our bus services in Barry and the Vale – a top priority for myself and the Vale Council.

BUS SERVICE

Our Transport Minister, Edwina Hart AM, visited Barry last week to hear about the innovative, new 'on-demand' Greenlinks bus service being introduced by the Vale Council from Llantwit Major to Bridgend via Cowbridge, which will be available to anyone who books it.

From next Monday (January 20), this new bus service will operate between 8.15am and 6.15pm serving the villages of Llanmaes, Stington, Llandow, Llysornewy, Llanblethian, Pentre Meyrick, Penlllyn, Craig Penlllyn, City, Ruthin, St Mary Hill, Fferm Goch, Llangan, Treoes, Colwinston, Cornstown and Ewenny. Pick-up and drop-off points will be from bus stops or at agreed locations.

To request this service, call 08002941113 by 12 noon, one working day before travel. Regular weekly bookings will also be accepted.

If you plan to be a regular user, you can book multiple trips by one phone call. Our concessionary travel passes are eligible for this new service.

This new service is being trialled so we need to get the message out about it to as many people as possible in the rural Vale, to ensure it is used.

With Welsh Government funding for Greenlinks, this is another example of public investment in the Vale, to provide access to work, leisure, appointments. I will be reviewing the service with the Vale Council and bus users to assess its effectiveness, which will help improve and sustain the service.

Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Man sought on police warrants

POLICE in the Vale are appealing for information concerning the whereabouts of Paul George Boyles (31), from the Grangetown area of Cardiff, who is wanted on two warrants for failing to attend Cardiff Crown Court.



He is described as about five feet 11 inches tall, medium build, with short, fair curly hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact the police on 101, or Crimestoppers free on 0800 555 111 (quoting number 62130006762).

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LOCAL WOMAN'S SOUTH POLE CYCLING TRIUMPH

A VALE adventurer is now back home, after setting two world records during her epic cycle ride to the South Pole.

Maria Leijerstam arrived at Heathrow to be met by a crowd of supporters, who noted that the other two challengers to cycle to the Pole, American Daniel Burton and Spaniard Juan Menendez Granados, were still cycling.

Maria (35) was suffering from chronic knee pain when she arrived, but having become the first person in the world to cycle to the South Pole in a record-breaking time of 10 days, 14 hours and 56 minutes, her delight overshadowed the pain.

She said: "I was adamant that I wanted to pedal every metre of the way."

"Even in areas of deep snow drifts I was able to propel myself forward with the assistance of my hands on the wheels, while shifting my weight to gain traction."

Maria rode on a unique polar cycle, built by Inspired Cycle Engineering of Cornwall.

It had three wheels to give her stability and allowed her to sit in a recumbent position to optimise aerodynamics in the winds of Antarctica.

Her route took her from the edge of the Ross Ice Shelf up the Leverett Glacier, which has been virtually unexplored by adventurers.

Against the stunning backdrop of mountains, she spent 26 cycling hours climbing 2,941 metres up the Leverett Glacier at an incline of over 20 per cent at times.

"My mind was constantly busy as I tried to calculate the best way forward with every revolution of the wheel."

"In order to maintain a steady speed, I had to focus hard on avoiding



Maria Leijerstam.

snow drifts and sastrugis, which ultimately stopped me in my tracks."

Maria's knee became increasingly painful after climbing the glacier with 55kg of kit. She had to resort to strong painkillers to relieve her dislodged knee cap.

A constant battle against frostbite was also at the forefront of her mind.

Back in Wales she is planning another full season of 'Burn Series' multisport events, which introduce people to adventurous sports, on www.burnseries.co.uk



Maria's achievement was all the more impressive as the other two people attempting the cycle ride were still on their bikes when she returned home!

ASSEMBLY GRANTS TO RAISE STANDARDS

NEW financial incentives of up to £20,000 for top postgraduate students who want to train to teach priority subjects – such as maths, physics and chemistry in Wales – have been announced by the Assembly Government.

Eligible postgraduate trainee teachers with a first class degree will receive the highest funding in 2014/15 – with lower amounts for those with a 2.1 or 2.2.

Funding will not be available for those without at least a 2.2 degree

classification.

Incentives of up to £15,000 will be available for those studying Welsh, modern foreign languages and ICT.

For those with a first class degree studying other secondary postgraduate and primary studies teacher training courses, a £3,000 incentive will be available.

There will be a further supplement of £2,000 for those undertaking primary postgraduate courses whose first class degree classification is in the subjects of English, mathematics and Welsh – to raise standards in literacy and numeracy.

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Leader hails 'tireless' Vale Council workers following the storms



The picnic area in Llantwit Major had also been tidied – and, thankfully, floodwaters in the meadows had receded.

THE Vale Council leader has spoken of the “tremendous and tireless” efforts of council workers during and after the recent storm.

High tides and strong winds on Friday, January 3, brought giant waves crashing over sea walls, bringing rocks with them.

Council workers were on standby on local promenades to ensure the safety of the public, and later helped with the big clear up – notably at Llantwit Major beach car park which suffered a deluge of rocks.

Coun Neil Moore told The GEM: “It is clear that our weather patterns are changing and extreme events are becoming the norm.

“As a council we will do all that is possible to protect the interests of our residents and the services that we provide.

“That includes clearing up after events like the recent storms that hit our coastline.

“Our staff have been absolutely tremendous and have worked tirelessly to repair the damage and try and get things back to normal as soon as possible.

“I have seen the pictures of the devastation on Llantwit beach and as usual it has been returned to normal within days.

“The same happened along the promenade area of Barry Island and the esplanade area of Penarth, where each day work was done to clear up the debris deposited as a result of the storms.”

The Vale Council leader emphasised that work was ongoing: “Our staff should be congratulated for the sterling work that they continue to carry out on a daily basis on behalf of the residents of the county.”



ABOVE: A rock-strewn Llantwit Major car park on Friday, January 3, after a battering from the storms.



Thanks to council workers the car park was back to normal by the beginning of last week.

‘Let’s learn the lessons of Llandow blaze’ – says Tory AM



LEFT: Andrew RT Davies is pictured with Enzo Cleaning managing director, Jamie Sneddon.

LESSONS must be learnt following the recent blaze at the Vale Industrial Estate in Llandow, South Wales Central AM Andrew R T Davies said this week.

Among the businesses the Welsh Tory leader visited was Enzo Cleaning, where he met managing director Jamie Sneddon.

He commented afterwards: “It was great to see local businesses doing so well, especially given the misfortune of having experienced two potentially devastating fires in quick suc-

cession.”

Tributes were paid by several businesses to the local police and fire crews whose response mitigated the impact of a huge fire.

However, Mr Davies said it brought home the need to question the type of things held in storage:

“Obviously, a fire on this scale raises questions over the type of things we hold in storage and how.

“Lessons must be learnt and combustible materials must be stored correctly and safety with better monitoring of the environment in which they are stored.”

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

The Aberthaw bees have got the power!

SO begins another year... The apiary is not showing any activity at present, which is not surprising, considering the weather that has been our lot of late.

Should we get a dry day with a temperature in the region of 10°C, the bees will venture out but it will be cleansing flights only.

Body waste from the bees can remain contained for lengthy periods over winter but eventually, they will exit the hive to answer the call of nature.

The past year did provide a summer, and this gave many pollinators the chance to carry out the task they are primarily designed for.

I have control of several apiaries and the variation in honey production and pollen gathering has been very marked. A good performance has come from the bees still within the confines of Aberthaw Power Station.

I contacted the management in March of last year with a view to setting up an apiary there and their response was very positive. What did I require? What could they do to make it a success?

They were quite prepared to provide hives and bees if I needed them. However, I already had three colonies that were

requiring a site and this apiary has seen them flourish.

For their part, the power station management cleared an area that we agreed upon and laid down a firm base that accommodates the hives superbly. In addition, a shed was provided for onsite storage, plus several metal stands were made so that the hives are well clear of the ground.

The apiary is very secure and permission for me to access the apiary at any time was readily given, on my pointing out that the weather would be the controlling factor regarding colony inspections.

For the future, no more than four colonies can be accommodated at this site, room to manoeuvre is a must for the beekeeper and, of course, for the bees.

I am well aware that a power station and its immediate environs are not to everyone's liking,

but the management team at Aberthaw have responded to a request and are doing their bit to try to check the decline of the honeybee.

The Fonmon Castle apiary is my prime site; the keeping of bees there was well established long before I put in an appearance. The beekeeper before me eventually had to bow out due to age, as I myself will have to one day.

It is to be hoped that we will still have honeybees in existence when that day comes along, and that the Boothby family will continue to provide an apiary at this most excellent of sites.

If we lose our pollinators, the planet will be the poorer for it. As has been stated, we as Homo Sapiens are the only species with the ability to change the planet! And we are certainly doing just that.

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PACT meetings

COURT PACT, Chilcott Room, Barry YMCA, Court Road on January 16 at 6pm.

BARUC PACT, Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, on January 22 at 6.30pm.

ILTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, on January 23 at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Gibbonsdown Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, on February 4 at 10.30am.

ST AUGUSTINES PACT, Windsor Arms public house, on January 29 at 7pm.

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Out and About with The GEM

Slavery film is a brutal, harrowing and compelling effort



by GARETH JAMIESON
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WHILE he may have only made two films thus far (the harrowing, yet gripping, *Hunger* and the raw *Shame*), Steve McQueen is fast developing a reputation for being one of the finest directors working today.

His latest film, *12 Years A Slave*, tells the true story of Solomon Northup (played by Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man who is abducted and sold into slavery.

Struggling to stay alive, Northup faces tests that will irrevocably change his life – but will there be salvation at

the end of it all?

While awards can hardly be deemed to reward worthy winners (more to reward those who have campaigned hard enough for them), seeing Steve McQueen stride to the stage at the weekend's Golden Globes to pick up the award for 'Best Motion Picture – Drama' was a more than deserved victory for the filmmaker; for *12 Years A Slave* is easily the most powerful, harrowing and devastating film seen in a long while.

It is a piece of work that manages to move you and leave you exhausted come the end credits.

That such a story could be true is a trou-

bling concept, especially when viewed through the prism of 21st Century society, but McQueen's skilled direction, and John Ridley's powerful script (based upon Northup's own recollection of events published in a book of the same name in 1853) bring the humanity to the forefront.

Northup's situation becomes more and more moving as he gets further and further away from the freedom that was his by right.

Some critics have noted the film almost riffs on the horror genre in terms of structure, but while this is true to a degree, the story chills far more effectively than most films within that genre, the nature of the protagonist and the travails he endures far more devastating than a masked psychopath with a big knife.

If McQueen's previous films have shown us the indomitable strength of the human spirit, and the darker side of man, then these two elements come together here; the former being exemplified by Northup's desire to survive and to hope for salvation, while the latter is perfectly essayed by characters who care not for Northup's claims, only what he can offer.

McQueen's direction doesn't soften the edges in any way; the brutality and danger of Northup's world is all too often shown, the effect and impact laid brutally bare, very often in long takes that truly convey the horror of what is unfolding.

The performances are superb, with Chiwetel Ejiofor's lead turn mesmerising in its nobility, majestic in the small moments of humanity afforded the character, and powerfully realised.

It's a pleasure to see the actor, who for too

long has been on the fringes in terms of his cinematic work, coming to the fore with what is an absolutely tremendous offering, the pain and sorrow, the belief and hope, perfectly etched upon his face.

Michael Fassbender's psychotic plantation owner is equally as mesmerising, the actor bringing a quietly explosive anger to the character and showing some truly horrifying touches, while Sarah Paulson, as his wife, plays quietly vindictive exceptionally well.

While Benedict Cumberbatch is stoic as a slaveowner with some semblance of a moral compass, Lupita Nyong'o, as the favoured slave of Fassbender, gives a heartbreaking turn, her innocence and will to live rapidly fading as the oppression of her life grows ever tighter, the actress conveying this wonderfully well.

It's rare for a film to be so deeply affecting as *12 Years A Slave* is; certainly the subject matter weighs heavily, but it is through the medium of the performances and Steve McQueen's measured direction that the horrors are truly conveyed. The result is a truly powerful piece of cinema.

VERDICT - A powerfully harrowing, compelling piece of work, *12 Years A Slave* is a supreme effort from director Steve McQueen. Showing an unflinching eye for the subject matter, his hard-hitting direction is married to a raft of absolutely outstanding performances, particularly from Chiwetel Ejiofor and Lupita Nyong'o. A difficult watch it may be, but an essential one it certainly is. *Must-see.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Amistad* (1997), *Roots* (1977).

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR AREA

Grup Cymraeg The Bear

BOB bore Gwener am 10am mae grŵp o siaradwyr a dysgwyr Cymraeg yn cwrrd yn The Bear (yn y Cwtsh) i sgwrsio ac ynfarfer eu Cymraeg.

Arweinydd y grŵp yw Rhiannon Williams, athrawes Gymraeg brofiadol o'r Bontfaen. Nid dosbarth yw hwn ond cyfle i ddefnyddio eich Cymraeg.

Croeso i unrhyw un sydd yn barod i geisio cynnal sgwrs trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Welsh language group

EVERY Friday morning at 10am, a group of Welsh language speakers and learners meet at The Bear (in the Cwtsh) Cowbridge to talk and practice their Welsh.

The group leader is Rhiannon Williams, an experienced Welsh teacher from Cowbridge.

This is not a class but an informal opportunity to use your Welsh.

There is a welcome for anyone of whatever level, who is willing to have a go at maintaining a conversation in Welsh.

Penarth surgery

ELUNED Parrott, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on January 17 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1pm and 2pm.

Residents who have any issues of concern are encouraged to go along. No appointment necessary.

Ward surgery

VALE Labour and Town councillors for Buttrills and Court Wards Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and

Stuart Egan will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, January 18 from 10am till 11.30am in the meeting room of Barry Library, King's Square.

No appointment necessary.

Advice surgeries

VALE Labour councillors Howard Hamilton, John Drysdale and Rhona Probert, and Barry town councillors Paula Hardy, Emma Pritchard and Charlotte Williams will be holding ward surgeries from 11am – 12pm on January 18 at 115 High Street, Barry; Cwm Talwg Community Centre; and Highlight Park Community Centre.

No appointment is necessary.

Art society

MEETINGS of the Cowbridge Art Society recommence on January 23, with a practical session on portraiture, organised by Deirdre Schweitzer.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at

the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Charity coffee

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, January 25, in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry at 10.30am to 12pm, in aid of the Mayor's charities, Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund. Entry fee £3.

For more information, call 01446 704921.

Family service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service on Sunday, January 26 at 10am.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages centred on the story of Samson. Creche facilities are available and refreshments served afterwards. All are welcome.

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TY HAFAN WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D809.

● £2,000: 402094, Swansea.

● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 972910, 491227, 224239,

665641, 256157, 401332, 790432,

878084, 489255, 416632, 867479,

686249, 606135, 961790, 715955,

543045, 515818, 948424, 816815,

717197.

● £5: 559034, 303092, 521611,

334154, 582535,

705609, 715338, 700616, 230484, 13500

9, 376061, 166787, 518137, 481716,

163255, 509658, 108771, 753589,

189009, 997648, 220809, 198144,

411936, 489481, 561368, 184765,

851897, 654419, 289546, 163046,

299264, 724479, 573617, 787086,

231863, 431910, 370939, 559728,

461190, 369313, 356274, 175951,

233035, 171497, 771724, 500669,

679914, 858492, 781819, 635898,

551509, 180695, 601027, 879589,

541071, 647018, 583990, 758673,

757434.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above. For lottery information, telephone 029 2053 2300.

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Securahome take over show site in Ewenny centre

SECURAHOME, one of Wales' leading designers of Luxury Windows, Doors, Conservatories and Orangeries, are proud to announce they have just taken over the show site at Ewenny Garden Centre.

This new expansion comes as Securahome celebrate their 20th trading year, in which the company have been successfully installing high quality products throughout the south Wales area from their head office and 2,000 square foot show centre in Swansea.

A visit to Securahome's new site at Ewenny Garden Centre will give you the chance to view three impressive conservatories, as well as demonstrating Securahome's new ultra thermally efficient Ambient® Window, a new composite door and products from their timber and aluminium ranges.

Nigel Hocking, the company's sales and marketing manager, explains: "This is not a short term venture for Securahome, we have been trying to identify a site in the area for over a year that would fit in with our quality brand."

"Ewenny Garden Centre's investment in its quality gardening and

home products, as well as Yankee Candle, Bomb Cosmetics, their luxury café The Coffee House and not forgetting, of course, the family favourite its fabulous NewMetal Zoo, we feel that this centre is destined to become one of Bridgend's best shopping experiences."

To cater for the increasing demand for Securahome's products within the Bridgend, Cardiff, and surrounding areas, Securahome plan major investment and are to build a luxury Orangery within the site in 2014.

With interest-free credit, and 15 per cent off, there is no better time to pay Securahome a visit and see what they can offer!

Take a stroll around Ewenny's luxury garden centre, or visit their coffee house for a delicious cappuccino or a spot of afternoon tea!

...And don't forget, you never know what animals you may see!

Securahome's Show site opened on October 1, 2013. Call us on 0500 21 22 24 for further information; go online at www.securahome.co.uk or visit Ewenny's own site on www.ewennygardencentre.com.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Ben Honour – 44 Westbourne Road, Penarth – Removal of rear fence and hedge and replace with fence.

Mr Duncan Barber – Llandough House, Llandough, Cowbridge – Single storey side-pitched roof extension.

Mr and Mrs Richard Coakley – 20 Penarth Marina, Penarth – Conversion of garage to habitable room and alteration works to front and rear elevations.

Mr and Mrs Graeme David – Land between Heritage Coast House and site of the former Sealawns Hotel, Main Road, Ogmore by Sea – Erection of four 4-bedroom dwellings and garages served by a private drive.

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – Land at Cowbridge Road outside MoD St Athan – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

S Andrews & Son – Cafe Nia, Penny Lane, Cowbridge – New signage to shopping

arcade. Mr C Davies – Yard adjacent Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major – Proposed new rural enterprise dwelling incorporating bed and breakfast in connection with Vale Carriages and change of use of land for two shepherd's huts for visitors.

Mr Peter Emery – Llanmaes House, Llanmaes – Minor internal alterations to create ancillary house-keeper's apartment utilising side entrance, bedroom and bathroom occupying north-east corner of the first floor of the existing building.

Mr Adrian Goulding –

70 Redbrink Crescent, Barry Island – Dormer windows and replacement of flat dormer roof with pitched roof.

Mr S Lines – Bryn Awel, The Lane, The Downs, St Nicholas – Single storey porch extension to front elevation plus replacement of two existing single storey rear/side conservatories with masonry construction extension.

Mr Richard Powell – 9 Rockrose Way, Cogan, Penarth – Dormer to rear elevation.

National Trust – Dyffryn Gardens, Dyffryn, Cardiff – A composting site is to be improved. The project is to improve the site by

putting down a concrete slab, open bays defined by walls, a drain to collect any excess moisture, a tank.

Mr David Frost – Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry – Conversion of former fire station into eight flats.

Mr Philip Williams – 1 Is Y Coed, Wenvoe – Installation of photovoltaic solar panels on the rear south facing roof.

Crest Nicholson (SW) Ltd – Land at Penarth Heights, Penarth – Change of use of

amenity space opposite no 37, St Joseph's Mews, Penarth Heights (phase 1) to private garden land for Plot 288 (phase 2). Retention of fences and decking structures (retrospective).

Mr Kevin Brazier – Coetref, Welsh St Donats – New single storey extension to replace conservatory.

New first floor extension over part of existing flat roof. New extension to front of garage and alterations to roof over garage to include canopy.

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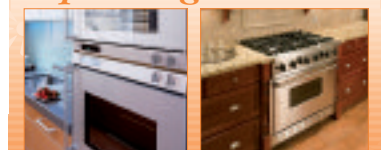
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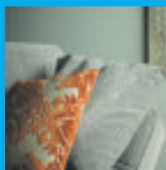
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Who wants to build what, and where?

Dr RC Standley – **66 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Rebuild front boundary wall and alterations to front garden.

Mr D Summerhayes – **Stone Court, Bonvilston** – Construction of new garden wall. CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Redlands Road, Penarth** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway footway.

Mr Shakoor Ahmed – **Barn at Welford Farm, Rhose** – Barn conversion to residential property.

Mr Malcolm Jones – **Cynma House, Cilwinston** – Use of orchard as garden.

UWC Atlantic College – **The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St Donats Castle** – Discharge of condition nos 2 and 3 of permission 2013/00839/LBC.

Wick Village Shop Ltd – **Post Office, St Brides Road, Wick** – Change of use of part of ground floor 90 sqm from Retail A1 to a Dwelling C3.

Mr and Mrs R Wilson – **Redholme, Llanbethery** – Construction of new access drive. Mr Charles Brain – **Ty Bont, Peterston super Ely** – Removal

of rear garden room with a single storey utility room extension and extended garage with bedroom above.

Mrs Mair Morgan – **Plot of land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes** – Erection of one house and double garage at land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes (renewal of 2008/01477/FUL).

CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Darren Hill, Cowbridge** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

Mr and Mrs S Short – **Forty Farm, St Brides super Ely** – Demolition of existing farmhouse and attached detached outbuildings and erection of replacement dwelling, detached garaging and altered access.

Coast Hair Studio – **Fox Hollows, Slon Lane, Ogmere by Sea** – Change of use from C2a (residential home) to A1 (hair-dressers); there will be no exterior development.

Equine Rehabilitation Clinic Ltd – **Cherry Orchard Farm, Welsh St Donats** – Construct a single storey agricultural building to accommodate the Equine Rehabilitation Clinic and convert the first floor of the existing barn to two-bedroom flat for occupa-

tion by enterprise worker, all ancillary to the use of the existing farm and equine business.

Waitrose Ltd – **Waitrose Ltd, Palmerston Road, Barry** – Proposed horticulture unit. CTIL and Telefonica UK Ltd – **Land at Elfed Avenue, Penarth** – Existing telecommunications installation on area of adopted highway verge.

Mrs Margaret Lewin – **18 Le Sor Hill, Peterston super Ely** – Ground floor extension to accommodate single bed/en-suite toilet/shower accommodation necessary on medical grounds. St Brides Ltd – **North Road, Cowbridge** – Five new dwellings with associated gardens, landscaping, access, garages and car parking at land adjacent to Vale Forge, North Road.

Newydd Housing Association – **Haydock House, 1 Holton Road, Barry** – Change of use and conversion of building to provide residential accommodation in the form of 15 affordable dwellings, retail unit (use Class A1/use Class A2/use Class A3 Restaurant/Cafe), access arrangements and associated works.

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Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major 9.30am
Catholic Church,
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Barry 7.30pm
Gibbonsdown
Community Centre
Nicky - 07703313619

Llantwit Major 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Illtyd Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry 4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth 9.30am & 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth 5.30pm & 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY

Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708941279

Barry - 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre,
Barry
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Dinas Powys 5.30pm & 7.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Nicky - 07703313619

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall
Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

FRIDAY

Dinas Powys 9.30am
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Hebron Hall
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Wiggy - 07970 450694

MONDAY

Barry 5.30 & 7.30pm
New Jerusalem Church, Tynwydd Road, opp. library, Barry Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose 5.30 & 7.30pm
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There is no obligation to join, so you can just come along and feel the wonderful atmosphere in our groups, as well as finding out more regarding our amazing plan.

(SEE OUR ADVERT ON PAGE 18)

Line-Dance cures January blues!

ARE you looking for a new hobby which is:

Fun!
Helps give your brain a workout!

Contains great music!

You can come on your own or with a friend!

A fantastic way to make new friends!

Never the same class twice, so you won't get bored!

First lesson is free!!!

If you say yes to all of the above, then why not try Line Dancing?

Line Dancing is a fun way to exercise the body and brain without realising it. It's not the old 'Ye-ha' and 'Dose-doe' perception that many people have.

Modern Line Dancing is all about dressing up either in smart/casual wear or just regular jeans/trousers and tops, learning dances to all kinds of music from your Lady Antebellum (Country) to Pitbull and

Gary Barlow (pop) as well as Latin and Irish music.

Line dancing is for all ages, whether you are 9 or 99, and there are classes for all levels from beginners to advanced.

Lynda has over 18 years' experience and has competed in many international and national competitions in Solo, Pro-Am, Quad and Team events.

While competing in Nashville, Tennessee, Lynda met her husband Matt Jenkins, who was from Crumlin, south Wales.

"If I hadn't taken up line dancing, I would never have met Matt and I wouldn't have made so many lifelong friends."

"Line dancing is a fantastic way to boost yourself and blow away those January blues!"

For more information please contact Lynda on 07738119637.

LINE DANCING

FREE Taster Session

for all new beginners/improvers/intermediates with this advert.

Classes are held on Mondays at Margaret Alexander Community Centre, Barry:

7-8pm Beginners;

8-9.15pm Improver/Intermediate.

Tuesdays: BP Sully 7-8pm Beginners,

8-9.30pm Improver/Intermediate.

For more information, please contact Lynda on 07738 119637.



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'I WILL walk your dog' is a real success story. Started nine years ago by animal lover, Ian Gibbons, pet care has taken on a whole new dimension.

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Ian will call and collect your pet in a fully-equipped van containing air conditioning, pet treats and luxury facilities, and give them their exercise.

Ian has experience in

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UNTIL now, the alternatives to straightening front teeth involved either long and expensive orthodontic treatments, or destructive and expensive restorative treatments - such as veneers or crowns.

Even ultrathin veneers involve heavy reduction of natural teeth when used to align crowding or protrusion.

But with the arrival of the Inman Aligner, all that has changed. It is a cost-effective, removable orthodontic appliance that moves teeth in a fraction of the time of other systems.

It aligns crowded or protruding anterior teeth with two opposing spring loaded aligner bars. This provides gentle but continuous pressure over a large range of movement.

Surprisingly, this gentle pressure is

the quickest way to move teeth, but it also makes treatment very safe and kind to teeth.

People love the speed of treatment and it's changing the face of dentistry as we know it. The average treatment time is only four to 16 weeks, and now with concerns over economy, it's a more justifiable expense.

Only certified Inman Aligner dentists can provide this, and Dr Owain Joynson, of Porthkerry Dental Centre, has achieved this certification.

Dr Joynson said: "The Inman Aligner is the greatest innovation in dentistry of recent years. It's fast, affordable and kind to teeth. It really is the best way to straighten crowded front teeth."

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Porthkerry Dental Centre

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"The Inman Aligner was so fast and so comfortable, I honestly couldn't believe it... brilliant!"

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Tel. 01446 735395 email: porthkerrydental@btconnect.com www.porthkerrydental.co.uk

Jones & Jones Optometrists, specialists in family eyecare

BETWEEN 75 - 90 per cent of all your sensory information about the surrounding environment is visual.

The process of converting light into an electrical signal that your brain can interpret is a fairly complex one that involves millions of highly-specialised cells found only in the eye.

Despite this, many people take their vision for granted and neglect their eyecare.

Considering the prevalence of serious eye disease rockets from only 0.3 per cent in the under-50s to over 25 per cent of the over-70s, getting a regular eye check is really important.

For the over-60s, the main three culprits are glaucoma, cataract and macular degeneration. All of these eye diseases are treatable if caught early enough, but the problem is that they have a gradual onset and tend to creep up on people. By the time vision is noticeably affected, substantial irreversible damage can occur.

Led by Dr Adrian Jones, one of the leading optometrists in the UK, Jones & Jones Optometrists are able to provide specialist eyecare that is currently not available in most high street opticians. As well as ordinary private, and NHS sight tests, we specialise in:

- Glaucoma diagnosis and treatment.
- Acute eye problems, such as red eyes and flashing lights and floaters.
- Watery and dry eye assessments.
- DVLA drivers' assessments.
- Contact lens fitting and aftercare.

Where most opticians have to refer their patients to hospital, Dr Jones is able to provide a comprehensive, gold standard diagnosis, treatment and follow up for common eye problems.

In conjunction with our specialist clinical services, we also offer a personalised dispensing service with a huge range of frames.

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Our direct computer links with the manufacturing plants mean we can show you exactly what your lenses will look like before ordering, and provide a real time estimate for delivery.

If you or someone you know is concerned about an eye problem, why not get specialist help and advice? Book an appointment on 01446 400015, or visit us online at www.jonesandjones.org.uk

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Health, Beauty & Fitness



HYPNOTHERAPY CAN HELP WHEN 'THINGS GET UNDER YOUR SKIN'

IT is often said that our skin is a mirror image of our internal self: an imbalance within the nervous system may often be reflected in our skin.

It can be a signal of a reaction to a trigger and, although treating the symptom may be effective, it is important to address the trigger as well.

This is why hypnosis for skin conditions can be productive.

These types of condition can have distressing effects on self esteem and confidence, even result-

ing in avoiding social interaction.

If you are prepared to work towards change, Solution Focused Hypnotherapy can help tackle confidence and anxiety issues which can exacerbate symptoms and create a vicious circle.

If your medical practitioner confirms there is no physiological basis for your condition, and you would like to discuss a free initial consultation, contact Sue Pitman on 07795 964066 or www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk.

Dawn Clinic moves into its third year

WITH both new and regular customers enjoying the comfortable, clean and welcoming environment, Dawn Clinic provides a private appointment-only health and advanced beauty clinic.

Dawn has been involved in nursing for over 20 years, specialising in skin care, and now devotes all her time to the clinic.

Dawn is fully registered to administer all prescriptive medications and aesthetic treatments; these range from Botox to advanced facial sculpting.

The clinic works with Cosmetic Surgery Partners of London, led by world-renowned reconstructive and cosmetic surgeon, Miles Berry, offering free consultations and post-operative care.

Dawn is committed to providing the most suitable and safe treatments to meet your individual requirements.

esthetic
DAWN CLINIC
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Dermal fillers and Sculptra 20% off
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12 York Place, Barry CF62 7ED
T: 01446 732 286 • www.dawnclinic.com

Friendly Pilates classes in Barry

PILATES classes are held at St Nicholas Hall and the Millennium Centre in Barry, where classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester and are small and friendly.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture. Classes are available for complete beginners, up to intermediates.

Sharon is a registered osteopath, working in Barry with people with all sorts of musculo-skeletal pain – from minor sports injuries to bad backs, arthritic aches and pains.

One-to-one Pilates sessions are also available, beginning with a postural assessment, followed by individual Pilates tuition. Over a series of lessons, a personalised Pilates programme is built up to be practiced at home.

To join, or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 085606, or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

Romilly Osteopathy & Pilates Clinic Barry Pilates Classes

Beginners Pilates

Mondays 9.15am & 5.30pm
Fridays 7.15pm

Intermediate Pilates

Mondays 9.15am & Fridays 6pm
At St Nicholas Hall & Millenium Centre
Sharon - 07830 085606

www.barrypilates.co.uk

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Wellfield Osteopathic Clinic, Cardiff.
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We look forward to meeting you at either of our Cowbridge or Llantwit Major clinics.

We also offer home appointments to those people who are unable to attend due to illness or disability.

In addition, we have an evening clinic in Llantwit Major for those who are working during the day.

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www.valepodiatry.co.uk

LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?

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Natalie's trek is to raise funds for River Africa

A NURSING student at Cardiff University, Natalie Heywood, is set to embark on the challenge of a lifetime, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro – in a bid to raise funds for River Africa.

The UK-based charity is committed to the construction of a 'Mother and Baby Hospital' in Zimbabwe.

The GEM has featured the River Africa charity in the past – one of its stalwart campaigners, Daniel Nadzo, who lives in Bridgend, has collected funds for it across the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs.

Mount Kilimanjaro is the world's highest free-standing mountain.



ABOVE:
Natalie Heywood.

Natalie hopes to raise over £2,995 by taking part in River Africa's 'Courage to make a Difference' Kilimanjaro challenge.

She will be collecting donations from members

of the public tomorrow (Friday, January 17), and on Saturday, January 24, at the University Hospital of Wales from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Natalie, who will have a stall in the lobby, decided to take part in the trek and raise funds after speaking to Ian Powell, a volunteer who was fundraising for River Africa at a Tesco Extra store.

During the course of the conversation, she learned of chronic poverty, scarcity of resources, HIV/AIDS pandemic, an underperforming economy and healthcare system which is denying expectant mothers access to antenatal care.

To sponsor Natalie, go to <http://www.justgiving.com/natalieheywood>

HINENI: Holocaust survivors and immigrants tell their story

TO commemorate the 2014 Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27, the Vale Council has worked with Butetown History and Arts Centre and Cardiff Reform Synagogue to produce the 'Hineni' cultural, art and history project.

'Hineni' means 'Here I am' in Hebrew and is used culturally as a strong statement of expression that certainly describes the exhibition on show.

Combining powerful, empathetic photographic portraits with compelling life stories, this exhibition explores questions of memory, place and identity.

The near life-sized subjects that address us are Holocaust survivors, post-war immigrants and people from generations of families that have lived in Wales, England and Scotland.

They are members of the Cardiff Reform Synagogue, but their faces and experiences bear witness to our common humanity.

Vale county borough councillor Gwyn John said: "I am impressed with the quality and impact of

these larger than life images that greet you as you enter the gallery, drawing you toward the person and their individual story."

Dr Glenn Jordan, the photographer and curator, has spent nearly 30 years exploring the lives of immigrants and minorities in Wales and Ireland.

Dr Jordan said: "My photographic work, created in collaboration with the local communities, probes questions of history, culture, identity and power. It invites dialogue and understanding."

Colin Heyman, the project director, said: "This exhibition shows a multiplicity of stories and is about showing our diversity in Wales."

"The exhibition enables people to reflect on many facets of belonging and identity."

The exhibition is at the Art Central Gallery, Town Hall, Barry, CF63 4RW Tuesdays to Saturdays 10am – 4pm until Saturday February 8. Entrance is free and the exhibition is suitable for all ages.

For more information, visit www.valeofglamorga.gov.uk and follow the Art Central 'What's on' pages, or visit www.hineni.org.uk

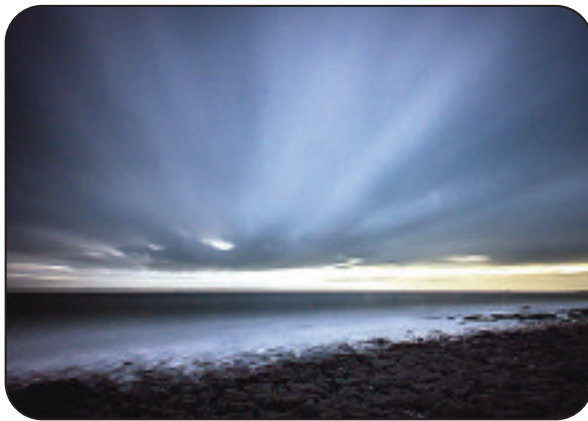


Des Gollen with image of his wife, Ina Gollen.

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter?
Follow us: @gem_news

The calm – and beauty – before the storm...

RIGHT:
This beautiful, brooding portrait of the Bristol Channel was taken by local photographer Gareth Williams at Rhooose Point beach. He explained: "The image was taken the day before the storms and tidal surge. What you can see are the storm clouds rolling in – sort of the calm before the storm – as they await to release their payload of rain!"



'PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE VISITING HOSPITAL' Health chief's warning in battle with norovirus

THREE wards have been closed in a Vale hospital as health chiefs fight the spread of the norovirus.

The public is being asked to avoid visiting hospitals unless absolutely necessary in a bid to halt the infection.

Three wards have been closed to visitors at University Hospital Llandough, with part of one closed at the University Hospital of Wales, following suspected cases of the bug.

Dr Eleri Davies, the director for infection prevention and control at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said that while norovirus is in general an unpleasant 48-hour illness, it can be more serious for those in hospital.

She said: "We are now seeing diarrhoea and vomiting infections in the community. With some infections also confirmed in the hospitals; this inevitably leads to instances of ward closures.

"It is very difficult to stop the spread of norovirus once it is in hospital – so we are asking the public to help support us by restricting visiting to what is absolutely necessary.

"If you are visiting friends or family in hospital, then please heed the advice at the entrances to wards and practice good hand hygiene."

Dr Davies also added that soap and water was the most effective way to wash hands and defend against norovirus.

As well as spreading quickly and being unpleasant for sufferers, the knock-on effect of outbreaks of norovirus for health services can be significant, leading to disruption in normal patient admission and treatment flows.

Dr Davies said taking simple precautions could help minimise the spread of the infection and urged those who have had diarrhoea or vomiting to wait until they are symptom free for at least

two days before visiting friends and family in hospital or returning to work or school.

"We do have very robust procedures in place for managing norovirus, but the best defence is to avoid bringing it into hospitals in the first instance, so we would really ask everyone to think carefully before visiting hospitals over the next few weeks.

"If you are suffering from symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting and need to see a GP or attend hospital, please inform your surgery or hospital about your symptoms, ideally by telephone before you attend."

If you or a family member has a sickness bug, find out more on how to manage the symptoms and what to do by checking out the NHS Direct website at: www.nhs-direct.wales.nhs.uk/doiyouself/symptomchecker/vomiting/; or the NHS Choices website at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/Norovirus/Pages/Introduction.aspx

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Fossil fuels turn back the clock

A CENTURY ago, of the major industrialised cities of the world, London had the least developed and least efficient electricity system, resulting in more expensive electricity prices than other leading cities and continued use of gas lighting.

The 1882 Electric Lighting Act, was just one example of how politicians in the House of Commons helped to preserve the pre-electricity status quo for power and traction in London for many years.

Those who had invested in the gas utilities, including local authorities, were desperate to protect their investments from the diffusion of electricity.

David Lloyd George, when president of the UK Board of Trade, is quoted as saying to Charles Merz (the pioneer of electric power distribution in the UK), in explanation as to why the UK lagged behind industrial competitors in the uptake of the latest electrical technologies: "My dear young friend, this is not a question of engineering, it is a question of politics."

Innovative-entrepreneurs of today, like Charles Merz a century ago, are up against powerful vested interests, who have no vision of a better future and work

only to preserve the interests of a few – with no regard to the potential environmental, social and economic costs that we all must bear.

Already, we have technologies that can reduce domestic water and energy use by 70 – 90 per cent, and we can build new homes that need little, if any, heating.

However, these technologies are a threat to powerful individuals and corporations who have organised the Government in support of fracking and the continued excessive use of fossil fuels.

They are not just protecting the £100m invested in fracking in the UK, but also the billions of pounds invested in other fossil fuel related technologies, skills and infrastructures.

Too many elected politicians (supported and influenced by 'vested interests') are supporting those desperate to protect their foolish investments in fossil fuels that are rooted firmly in the past, in clear preference to those with visions of a thriving society without reliance on fossil fuels and the associated emissions.

Britain cannot progress when still investing in fossil fuels.

Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

Harry made it to the ripe old age of 24!



ABOVE: Long-haired Harry, who lived to the age of 24!

THE letter from Mr Howells about his cat, Jasmine, who is 20, struck a chord with me, as we have recently lost our own cat, Harry, who died at the age of 24.

Harry was a long-haired Norwegian breed, and came to us from a farm in Bonvilston. He was a delight to be with and, according our local vet, he was the oldest cat in the Vale!

**Roy Chappell
Llantwit Major**

Age Cymru, voice for the elderly...

LAST winter, 1,900 people – most of them over 65s, died in Wales from preventable cold-related illnesses – a 50 per cent increase on the previous winter.

It was also the time when older people in Wales were statistically more likely to cut back on their heating and eating than those anywhere else in the UK.

In 2013, thousands of older people across Wales – many with conditions such as dementia, were conned out of their money by dodgy doorstep traders and scam mail.

Ill-health was also a problem for over 65s in Wales last year, with the Welsh Health Survey 2012 showing that 62 per cent of over-65s in Wales were overweight or obese.

Age Cymru is the national older people's charity for Wales and it is our mission to improve the lives of older people. In 2014, we are working with our local charity partners across Wales to make sure that no stone is left unturned to make this ambition a reality.

We feel it is unacceptable that older people can be targeted by criminals seeking to take advantage of them.

• Email your letters to:
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk
including your FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER

This is why, during the next 12 months, Age Cymru will be campaigning to make sure older people receive increased protection from abuse and financial scams through our 'Scams and Swindles' campaign and dementia project.

We feel strongly that every community in Wales should be an age-friendly place which allows older people to feel valued, independent and be safe from harm.

Age Cymru will continue to support older people's groups in 2014 as they campaign to have a voice and choice on the issues affecting their lives.

We will also be encouraging the Welsh Government to adopt the concept of age-friendly communities as a cornerstone of all its public policy decisions.

Ian Thomas, Cardiff, Chief Executive, Age Cymru.

FREE HEALTH CHECK

TO help improve health and diet, Age Connect Cardiff and Vale are holding a FREE health check at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on January 22 (11.30am to 12.15pm). Contact 01446 732385 for further information. No appointment needed.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Land adjacent to Coed Bychan Farm, Llanharan, CF72 9NG – erection of one wind turbine and associated works (resubmission).
Mr Andrew Tipping – Heol Las, Wick – agricultural equipment shed.
Vale Council – Albert Road Primary School, Penarth – internal alterations and replacement of two windows.
Mr D Thomas – 8 Maillards Haven, Penarth – rear ground floor extension 4,000mm depth from original main house plus conversion of part of existing garage with new window to front.

Mr Jonathan Graham – 46 Coleridge Avenue, Penarth – single storey rear extension, installation of bifolding doors to rear elevation and installation of large roof light to flat roof.
Barclays Bank plc – Barclays Bank plc, 2 Windsor Road, Penarth – installation of enclosure around rear fire escape and reorganisation of car park.
Ms Sara Moverly – Orchard Cottage, Leekwith, Cardiff – single storey rear extension; front/side ground floor kitchen extension; new roof over kitchen, first floor en-suite bathroom extension on the front removing rear porch.
Clearwater Property Company Ltd – 67-69 Dochwy Road (shopping

parade), Llandough – renewal of application ref 2007/00751/FUL; 18 self-contained residential units over three storeys to replace demolished mixed-use building.
Mr Jamie Rice – Ger Y Mor, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea – construct carport for three cars/external secure storage. Convert garage to home gymnasium. Adjust driveway to provide landscaped beds. Minor internal alterations. Extend master dressing room. Replace existing substantial windows with weather resistant glazing. Render existing facing brickwork.
Springbank Nursing Home Ltd – Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry – internal alterations at second floor level.
Mr Moon – Carwyn, St Brides Major – two storey side extension with lower ground floor garage created, single storey front and rear extensions and refurbishment of existing house.
Wilkinson Group – Wilkinsons, Holton Road, Barry – numerals, fascia panels and signs.
Infinite Renewables Ltd – Hare Grove Farm, Laleston – one wind turbine with maximum blade height of 45m and capacity of 250kw; with associated works.
Mr David Muxworthy – 24 Robinswood Close, Penarth – alter-

ation and extension to existing dormer roof to create two bedrooms and conversion of existing bedroom to bathroom.
Mr Mark Jones – Dryslwyn, Trepit Road, Wick – demolish existing house/garage. Construct replacement dwelling and garage.
Mr Hywel Jones – Ty Gwyn, Pen Y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys – first floor extension to include new roof. Single storey rear extension.
Mr Liam O'Shea – 2, Coastguard Cottages, Llantwit Major – extend existing kitchen with an infill construction.
Dr Xavier Escofet – 42 Llwyn Passat, Portway Marina, Penarth – proposed garage conversion and erect a balcony.
Mr Ian Ryley – Byways, Twynncyn, Dinas Powys – new detached garage.
Cenlin Ltd – site of former water tower, former Stormy Down Aerodrome, Bridgend – provision of one wind turbine on site of former water tower.
Mr Kevin Knowles – Fernlea, Port Road West, Barry – construct entrance porch to front elevation.
Mrs Andrea Harry – 1 Vale View Crescent, Llandough, Penarth – single storey side extension to dwelling to provide garage, wc, utility and study.
Mr H Navidi – Mill Barn, Boverton

– change of use involving new access track to Barn 3 and retention of parking area to provide off-street spaces for Barns 1 and 2.
Mr D Summerhayes – Stone Court, Bonvilston – proposed two storey annexe containing gym and granny flat.
Mr and Mrs C Pryde – 24 Evenlode Avenue, Penarth – replacement dwelling.
Mr Johnathan Oxenham – 44 Marine Drive, Barry – proposed side and rear extensions plus internal alterations to remodel the dwelling.
Taylor Wimpey plc – Land south of Cog Road, Sully – residential development with associated access and associated works.
Mr Roy Candy – 48 Dock View Road, Barry – change of use – dwelling to two residential units.
Mr and Mrs Jones – 39 Shakespeare Avenue, Penarth – demolish existing lean-to garage/shed and construct new double storey side extension, comprising a garage and upstairs bedroom.
Ian Morris – 7 Castle Court, Llantwit Major – extension to side of property and demolition of existing garage with small extension.

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DON'T ECONOMISE WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDING PHOTOS!

If your wedding budget is starting to climb, and you need to cut a few corners to save cash, there's a temptation to ask your friend to get behind the camera, writes **SHAWN HICKMAN**. Wrong move!

Never let your friend, even if he's your very best friend, or even a close family member, take responsibility for the photography at your wedding.

There is so much more involved in capturing a wedding photographically or on video than your friend will think about.

Sound, lighting, positioning, framing, story-line, style – each of these broad categories has numerous elements so that if one thing is 'out' the whole thing might not look or sound right.

Friends can leave things to the last moment – and are they going to have the best equipment? The less they know, the less they will show up with.

Holding a camera and capturing a wedding and reception is not like being there enjoying the moment – and a friend wants to enjoy a wedding.

It is work and you

need to concentrate on what you are doing such as the focus, how the shot looks, or sounds, if a digital video camera is being used – and then where you need to be next.

The bottom line is that for the photographer there is very little time to enjoy the wedding which is what friends are there for.

Lastly, if something should go wrong it could possibly ruin a friendship.

What happens if shots are out of focus or the film cuts someone out?

Make sure you book a professional – then you can relax, secure in the knowledge, that one of your major wedding headaches is out of the way.

The right wedding invitation can add that special touch

It doesn't matter whether you are planning to have a large or a small wedding, you still have to send out invitations, writes **MIKE LINDSEY**.

For larger wedding parties, you can order your invitations through the wedding planning department at a store, although going direct to a printer might secure you the best price.

Of course, you can always choose to make your own invitations which is also nice, unique and personal.

When it comes to home crafted wedding invitations, some people

even use calligraphy to add style and elegance to their invitations.

When you make your invitations by hand, you can address each one individually so that you can add unique invitations to your guests that are addressed specifically to them.

When you hand make your invitations, one of the beauties is that you can personalise them with a note, poem or verse.

Most importantly, you must put RSVP on the invitation – standing for *repondez si l'vous plait* – so that people are obliged to reply to the invite, enabling you to work out numbers.

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BRIDES & GROOMS - A SPECIAL GEM FEATURE



For the groom, there is plenty of choice when it comes to the ring

Once upon a time the plain gold band was the only choice for a man's wedding ring.

While brides-to-be deliberated over filigree,

gem stones and other detailing, grooms simply told the jeweller their finger size and went on their way.

But times have changed. Today grooms have a host of options, from intricately detailed

to customised creations.

Wedding rings come in a variety of styles, metals and finishes to fit the personality of every groom. The trend today is definitely about individual style.

While gold will always be a popular choice, other metals are currently gaining favour.

Platinum, a silver-coloured precious metal, is a big trend at the moment. In recent years, according to Platinum Guild International, the number of brides and grooms choosing platinum rings has reached 40 per cent.

A matt finish is popular, as it gives a subdued, modern look. While

more expensive than gold, it is also more durable, making it a good choice for those who work with their hands.

No longer just a girl's best friend, many grooms are adding diamonds to their rings. These rings give just a bit of sparkle, often in a style that complements the bride's ring.

Most popular are 'channel-set' or 'gypsy-set' stones that offer a flush mounting and secure fit.

For a personal look, many grooms are adding special details. Custom engraving is a great option for grooms who want a ring unique to

them.

Many grooms unaccustomed to wearing jewellery are discovering the newest ring metal, titanium. This lightweight, durable metal comes in either satin or polished finishes, often with an accent stripe of gold. Titanium rings provide an up-to-date look at an affordable price.

Expert advice for men is to look for a ring that not only matches your taste, but also your life. Intricate carvings will catch debris, and may not be a good choice for those who engage in messy work.

Matt finishes tend to show scratches more quickly. Remember that some people are sensitive to metals and may have skin allergies that make one metal a more desirable choice than another.

Take your time when selecting a ring.

Remember, long after the tuxedos have been returned and the limo ride has ended, your wedding ring will be with you each moment to remind you of your lasting commitment.

ARA Content

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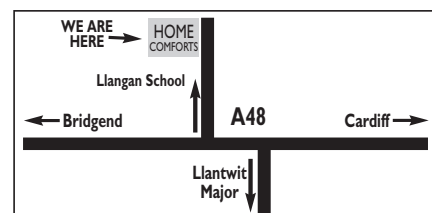
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AFC lands a new sponsorship deal

THE Blacksmiths Arms have become the main sponsor for Llantwit Major AFC and so to seal the deal, all of the first team squad enjoyed a sizzling night of local home cooked steaks which set them up for wearing their new kit on Saturday.

The committee and players thank Mike and all the staff at the Blacksmith Arms for his continued support. Pictured are Mike the landlord and his wife presenting the shirt to Llantwit Major AFC chairman, John Guy.

DJ



LOCAL BOXER JAMES MAKES HISTORY!

LLANTWIT MAJOR boxer James Rees made history on a show hosted by Victoria Park ABC at Cottrell Park golf club.

This show was to mark the 50th year of former boxer Eddie Avoth turning professional; it was also to be the first show in Wales for 29 years to feature contests where senior boxers would compete without head guards.

However, James took it all in his stride. He was up against Tim Newing of the host club, and the bout started with both lads landing big shots from the first bell; it was a very evenly matched bout with the first round being shared.

The second round was also close with both lads taking big shots, but James opened up a narrow lead; he was feeling the effects of the fast pace and was breathing heavily, but after a few choice words and some encouragement from his corner, he went into the last round showing grit and determination.

Both boxers gave their all, boxing each other to a standstill, and former champion Nicky Piper, who was ring announcer for the night, congratulated both boxers on a fantastic first bout; all three judges marked James as their winner.

MD

Barry Bees impress in first game of the year

BARRY BEES entertained St Peters RFC on a cold and blustery morning at the Reservoir Fields in their first game of the New Year.

The Bees started at a blistering pace and outside half Cian Anderson scythed through the visitors' defence from the first scrum. This was quickly followed by another from Cian, as Barry looked to be running rampant.

However St Peters responded well and scored a lovely try after a slick move through the backs. The quality of the rugby was good from both sides, both of whom were determined to play expansive rugby despite the blustery conditions.

Cian added another excellent try, after a great run by Cole Saunders, to extend Barry's lead again, but with the final play of the half St Peters went over in the corner to keep themselves in contention.

The Bees were on fire in the second half, with the whole team contributing to an outstanding performance. Cole opened the scoring with a powerful run, after a set move from a scrum.

This opened the floodgates. Cian soon added another, with more outrageous dummying. Debutant Jake Frost then

smashed his way over to keep the tries flowing. Cole added another after a brilliant chase of a long kick from Cian.

Centre Jacob Pereira finished another flowing move, as he bulldozed his way over the line. Full back Spencer Williams then danced his way through the visitors' defence for another excellent try; this was quickly followed by a great interception try from hooker Rhys Lloyd.

The Bees did not relent and continued to play excellent rugby against an increasingly dispirited St Peters. Cole scored another well worked try from a set move, after a great pass from Cian.

The scoring was completed by winger Ryan Stephenson who squeezed over with the last play of the game, to make the final score 60-10.

This was a great team performance, and bodes well for the rest of the season; this is the standard that the boys now need to maintain.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Rhys Lloyd, Jake Frost, Ethan Watkins, Charlie Bale, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Jacob Pereira, Cole Saunders, Spencer Williams, Joe Ryan

Non-playing: Ryan Stephenson, Cameron Foster.

JM

Barry darts league round-up

THE Wanderers run of form continued with a 5-4 victory over the Billy Ghosts.

In a tight game between the Windorsides, the Dartonians came out on top, beating the Nomads by 5 games to 4. Kevin Sheppard hit a 180 during the match.

The Poachers had a comfortable 7-2 victory over the BFC Allsorts. The league leaders,

Cwm Talwg, profited on some poor finishing by the Park Weasels to claim a 5-4 win.

First division leaders, The Throws of Despair, traveled to Rhoe to claim a 2-7 win over the Cambrian Runways.

The second placed Mariners kept up the pressure with a 7-2 victory over Pat's 26s. The Caddy Cons Raiders beat the Starlets 9-0 to remain in third place.

RL

Barrivale bridge results

Latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club, January 7:

1st Mark Roderick & Trevor Towers 61.81 per cent; 2nd Helen Jordan & Judith Owen 55.56; 3rd Sean Macdougall & Ann Macdougall and Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 51.39; Helen & Judith won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

MB

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01209/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Removal of rear fence and hedge and replace with fence
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	44, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01229/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Rebuild front boundary wall and alterations to front garden
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	66, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01238/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Removal of rear garden room with a single storey utility room extension and extended garage with bedroom above
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Ty Bont, Peterston Super Ely
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01239/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Erection of one house and double garage at land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes (Renewal of 2008/01477/FUL)
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Plot of land in front of Castlebrook, Llanmaes
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01247/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Five new dwellings with associated gardens, landscaping, access, garages and car parking at land adjacent to Vale Forge, North Road; North Road, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad: Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01218/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Minor internal alterations to create ancillary housekeepers apartment utilising side entrance, bedroom and bathroom occupying north east corner of the first floor of the existing building
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Llanmaes House, Llanmaes
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01224/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Conversion of former fire station into eight flats
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01235/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Discharge of condition Nos. 2 and 3 of permission 2013/00839/LBC
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	The Cavalry Barracks, United World College of the Atlantic Ltd, St. Donats Castle
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01252/LBC

Proposal/Cynnyg:	Internal alterations and replacement of to windows
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Albert Road Primary School, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01259/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Internal alterations at second floor level
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01223/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Conversion of former fire station into eight flats
Location/Lleoliad: Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Former Fire Station, Court Road, Barry

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01257/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Renewal of application ref: 2007/00751/FUL; 18 self contained residential units over three storeys to replace demolished mix use building
Location/Lleoliad:	67-79, Dochdwy Road (Shopping Parade), Llan-dough

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01230/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Construction of new garden wall
Location/Lleoliad:	Stone Court, Bonvilston

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01274/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed two storey annex containing gym and granny flat
Location/Lleoliad:	Stone Court, Bonvilston

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01213/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Erection of 4 no. four bedroom dwellings and garages served by a private drive
Location/Lleoliad:	Land between Heritage Coast House and site of the former Sealawns Hotel, Main Road, Ogmere by Sea

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2013/01217/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg:	Proposed new rural enterprise dwelling incorporating bed and breakfast in connection with Vale Carriages and change of use of land for two shepherds huts for visitors
Location/Lleoliad:	Yard adj Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St. Brides Major

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

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D63 - £550 pcm
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D56 - £550 pcm
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D64 - £650 pcm
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E53 - £650 pcm
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£139,950**PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY**
Spacious living accommodation, three reception rooms, conservatory, wc cloakroom, four double bedrooms, master bathroom with jacuzzi, more than ample parking, enclosed rear garden.
£259,950**MAES Y CWM STREET, BARRY**
Semi detached, traditional, four bedrooms, three reception rooms, well maintained, minutes walk to shops, viewing highly recommended.
£152,950**BROAD STREET, BARRY**
Mid terraced traditional, bay fronted, three bedrooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, family bathroom, three bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom & walk in shower room, enclosed rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£149,000**ST OSWALDS ROAD, BARRY**
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£189,950**WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY**
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£132,950**DANIEL STREET, BARRY**
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£93,000**ADENFIELD WAY, RHOOSE**
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£229,950**GILBERT STREET, BARRY**
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£79,950**CWLWM CARIAD, BARRY**
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£224,950**COURT ROAD, BARRY**
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£99,950**VERONA PLACE, BARRY**
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£44,950**WELFORD STREET, BARRY**
Mid terraced, bay fronted, three reception rooms, three bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, no chain, viewing essential.
£154,950**DRYDEN TERRACE, BARRY**
Extended semi detached, far reaching sea views, two double bedrooms, two sitting rooms, two bathrooms, front, side & rear gardens, driveway. UPVC DG. ER-D.
£104,950**JENNER COURT, BARRY**
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£132,000**ADAR Y MOR, BARRY**
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£209,950**COLDBROOK ROAD, BARRY**
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£159,950**SOMERSET ROAD EAST, BARRY**
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£124,950**OLD MILL ROAD, BARRY**
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£149,950**THE MEWS, BARRY**
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£94,950**ST BRIDES WAY, BARRY**
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£102,500**BASSETT STREET, BARRY**
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£109,950**PURDEY CLOSE, BARRY**
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Llantwit Major RFC stand firm against the Gladiators

HAVING not taken the field for competitive action or training since December 21 due to the festive break and inclement weather, Llantwit welcomed league counterparts Glyncloch to Boverton Road for a fourth round SWALEC bowl fixture.

Even though no training had taken place on the field, Llantwit Major were prepared perfectly by the coaching team by using an indoor equestrian barn.

The preparation continued up until kick off and right through to the final whistle. Prior to the kick off the team was focused and ran through the game plan and responsibilities.

The squad were left to ponder the thoughts of the Welsh Rugby Union preview that stated "a visit to Boverton Road should hold no fear for the Glyncloch Gladiators". The result meant that someone obviously hadn't read the script.

Prior to kick, off Llantwit were informed that their opponents would start with 14 men due to a prop being stuck in traffic and would have passive scrums, much to the annoyance of Llantwit but thankfully the prop turned up in the nick of time for Glyncloch and the first scrum saw pressure put on the Llantwit eight!

The first half was a true reflection of Cup rugby with both sides making nervous mistakes such as dropped passes and kicks out on the full. The hits were colossal as both sides put their bodies on the line.

The first half was frantic and end to end but the only scores of the half were a penalty apiece.

Playing down the slope for the second half the team talk for Llantwit was simple, keep the ball, play for territory and the opportunities will come. The second half began just like the first and one hit saw Spencer Sutton giving an opponent the thumbs up.

Glyncloch pressed into the Llantwit half but hard tackling saw the ball spilled that was hacked through and great chasing by Jack Austin, Marcus Pearce and Andrew McNicol saw the defence at sixes and sevens allowing Marcus Pearce to dive over for the try which surprisingly was not converted by the usual 'siege gun' boot of Ryan Evans.

Following the try there was an instant feeling that this would be Llantwit's day and the side had the belief they would not be denied.

The game continued from end to end with stout defence from Llantwit constantly keeping the opponents at bay. Following another foray into the Glyncloch twenty two, Llantwit were given a penalty which they did not require as live wire fly half Chris Fowler calmly slotted a drop goal.

With 10 minutes to go Ryan Evans found his boot and slotted a penalty to give the home side further breathing space.

The final plays of the half saw 15 Llantwit men defending their line for their lives and supporters of Glyncloch thought their side had breached the line and scored only for the referee to state the ball had been lost going over the line.

Under massive pressure Llantwit got the ball off the park which signaled the end of the game and a spot in the last 16 as 14-3 victors.

The coaching team unanimously selected Marcus Pearce as the man of the match.

The team's feet will remain firmly on the ground knowing that they have all made club history but more importantly that they do not want the journey/dream to end. We look forward to the next round with excitement and anticipation.

The club would like to make a special mention to hooker Rhys Davies who suffered a badly dislocated shoulder and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery. Special thanks must also go to the Glyncloch physio who helped out with Rhys' injury.

Next Saturday we return to league action at home again against Glyncloch. Kick off is 2.30pm

NE

Cowbridge make 'Bowl' progress

COWBRIDGE RFC entertained Nantyffyllon in the fourth round of the Swalec Bowl and in a very exciting and entertaining encounter produced a great team effort to win 18-10.

On the 10 minute mark Nanty went ahead with a catch and drive from a line out giving them a five point lead after a period of domination.

Nanty extended their lead after 30 minutes

with a scrum five metres out that they drove forward allowing their number 8 to touch down. This try too, went unconverted.

Nanty were showing that they were a good team, strong in the set piece and strong offensively; but terrific tackling from hooker Connor Boys and flanker Rhod Walker and others were keeping Cowbridge in the game.

Just before halftime, and completely out of the blue, a kick upfield saw the Nanty full back attempting a counter attack but his chip ahead went straight into the hands of tough tackling centre Tom Larkin, who scampered over for a try.

With Nanty missing another penalty, the half-time score was a very respectable 5-10. Three substitutions were made, Jon Phillips for hard working Rhys Thomas at prop, Luke Adams for Connor Boys, and Rhys James for Rhod Walker. Each of the substitutes were to make a major impact.

From the restart hooker Adams took the ball, charged forward, flattened his opposite number and it took three more forwards to bring him down, setting a great tone for the second half.

Just four minutes in and a superb line out take by second row Matt Wright who had a great game, saw Rhys James drive over the line for a great try. Now momentum was switching towards Cowbridge.

At the mid point there was a crucial moment, because having been regularly penalised in the scrum, Cowbridge now won a penalty of their own through the hard graft of Jon Phillips, Luke Adams and Rob Howe.

The kick was successfully converted by outside half Alex Jones, putting Cowbridge into the lead for the first time.

Both teams saw good try scoring opportunities go begging because of poor final passes.

Although it was very tense, Cowbridge continued to press and a series of penalties brought a kick to touch and another great Matt Wright take in the line out and again Rhys James drove over for his second try.

Alex Jones' conversion from wide out hit the post and there was much relief as the referee blew his whistle to secure Cowbridge's passage into the last 16.

RV/RK

Sully IBC fail against the league leaders

SULLY IBC travelled to Abertillery to play league leaders Blaenau Gwent with a depleted side following a number of withdrawals.

As expected it was always going to be tough and with some of Sully's leading players being unavailable, all rinks struggled to compete with the rinks of Phillips and McLeod suffering heavy defeats.

The other Sully rinks although battling hard found themselves up against strong opponents and struggling to find consistency on a carpet at least five yards quicker than Sully's, leaving Blaenau Gwent winners by 175-72, gaining 22 points to remain well clear at the top of the league.

The disappointing aspect was that the Sully rink of Mel Newman had only three players even after attempting to encourage other sta-

dium members to play and a big thank you to those players who stepped in at the last moment.

After a positive start to the campaign there has been a loss of form and commitment by some players and with two games to go hopefully Sully can recover some sparkle and reproduce the form that created two wins in the first two games.

This Saturday Sully entertain second place Newport at 2pm.

WIBA Competition Results

There was further disappointment for Sully players, in the national singles as Chris Ackland lost out 15-21 to Nigel Williams and the four of Cogbill, Doyle, Snelling and McLeod succumbing to a Swansea four 13-23 after leading in the early ends.

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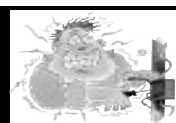
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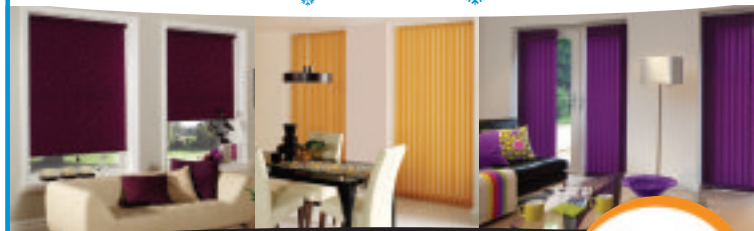
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Family Notices

In Loving Memory

PHILLIPS

Richard James (Ricky)

Peacefully, after a long battle against his illness at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Leaves behind devoted children, Claire, Kerry and Luke, grandchildren Nichol, Lola, Finley, Archie and Osian.

Funeral Monday 20th January, service at 12.30pm at St. Illtud's Church, followed by a committal service at Bridgend Crematorium.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu please, if so desired, to The British Lung Foundation Wales, 6a Prospect Place, Swansea SA1 1QP.

ROBERTSON

Leslie Glyn (Lester)

Passed away suddenly on December 26th at Barry Hospital, following a fall near home on December 22nd. Les will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road Barry until a celebration of his life on Friday, January 24th at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 10.30am. Immediate family flowers only please, donations in lieu, may be made at the service to The British Lung Foundation Wales or sent to the Funeral Director.

The family wish to thank the good samaritans who helped Les on the day of his fall. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

HUGHES

John Morgan

Peacefully on January 7, at his home in Llantwit Major, John (Siony), devoted husband of Donna, beloved father of Jo, Nathan and Helen, dear father-in-law of Gareth and Laura, much loved Bampy of all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Thursday January 23, service 10.15am at St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 11.30am. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Cancer Research Wales, c/o J. W. James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

HUGHES

John Morgan (Bampy)

A special smile,
A special face,
A special bampy,
We could never replace.

Always in our hearts, Laura, Lauren H, Lauren B, Corey, Lucas, Liam & Alana.

HEATON

Peter

Passed away on the 10th January at Bolton Hospice, Peter of Llantwit Major, dearly loved father of Leigh and Luke, father-in-law of Jan & Mair and a loving grandfather to Isobel.

Funeral service in Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Crematorium Barry on Friday, 24th January at 3.45pm. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Family flowers only but donations may be made to MacMillan Cancer Support c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please). All enquiries to W.A. Brown & Son 01446 792489.

DAVIES

Robert John (Long Bob)

The family of Robert John Davies, also known as Long Bob, are sad to announce that he passed away peacefully at his home on 9th January 2014, aged 72 years, after a long illness.

He was a much loved brother to Doris, Nobby, Mabel, Joyce, Ted, Margaret and Joan. He was a much loved uncle, great uncle and great great uncle to many.

His funeral service will be held at Bridgend Crematorium on Monday, 27th January at 2.45pm, followed by light refreshments at Llantwit Major Rugby Club. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

BOORMAN

Eric John

Suddenly on January 2 at his home in Llantwit Major, Eric, beloved husband of Gwen, loving father of Jane, Sandra, Wendy and her family: Martyn, Rhian, Bethan, Andrew, Lee, Erin and Ffion; Kathy and her family: Stephen, Jessica and Daniel.

In our hearts and thoughts forever.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Ffônnon. Funeral Friday January 24, service and cremation 2.15pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request, donations if desired to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales, c/o J. W. James, 11 Ffônnon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

Gordon G Lewis

Mair, Siân, Rob and families would like to thank relatives and friends who attended the funeral of the late Gordon G Lewis. Also, sincere thanks for all donations received. Special thanks to all staff at West 1, Llandough Hospital.

In Loving Memory

THOMAS K. FARMAN

"No longer in my life to share,
But in my heart you are always there.
You are there to remember
as long as life lasts."

Your dearly loving wife
Gwyneth

BEAUDETTE

Pearl Lucretia

Peacefully aged 87 years, the most beloved mother of Gerald and mother-in-law of Katherine, devoted and adored grandmother of Henry and Elizabeth and proud great grandmother of Henry Raymond. She was also cared for by her loving niece Jo Ann. She was for 40 years a widely respected teacher and head teacher and a dedicated member of the National Union of Teachers.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the chapel on Thursday, 23rd January 2014 at 2pm, followed by a committal service in the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only please, donations to Cancer Research Wales may be sent to Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

Birthdays

Happy 50th Birthday!
Carolyn Risby
on 16 January
Lots of love, Rebekah, James & family xxx



Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern: I, Roy Mathew Vizhamala, do hereby give notice that they have applied to the Licensing Authority, Vale of Glamorgan Council for the grant of our premises licence at:

Unit 2, Old Co-Op House, Rock Road, St Athan CF82 4PG and known as Lifestyle Express

The application is to permit premises licence for selling alcohol. The trading hours are from 07.00 to 22.00, seven days a week.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the Application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: Roy Mathew Vizhamala
Date: 16th January 2014

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Byddi Gorchymyn uchod, a wneud ar 18 Rhagfyr 2013, o dan Adran 25 o Ddeddf Prifffyrdd 1960, yn creu llwybr meirch cyhoeddus rhwng Pwynt A (Cyfeirnod Grid Canadaethol 315234 170411) a Pwynt E (Cyfeirnod Grid Canadaethol 315231 170882) fel y llosgwr ar tap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r map wedi'i ddarparu, a gwerth ei weld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod yr wythnos rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm o 16 Ionawr 2014 ymlaen hyd 13 Chwefror 2014. Cewch brynio copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y tan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Dylid nodi eich sylwadau ac unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r Gorchymyn, a'u hargrodd at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 13 Chwefror 2014. Dylid nodi eich sylwadau droc eu cyflwyno.

Oe na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a ddarbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn hydd i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddilysrheidiol. Os caiff y Gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nae tynwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hantoni ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 16 Ionawr 2014
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF MAKING HIGHWAYS ACT 1960
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY NO 45 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
PUBLIC PATH CREATION ORDER 2013

The above named Order made on 18th day of December 2013 under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1960 will create a public bridleway from Point A (NGR 315234 170411) to Point E (NGR 315231 170882) as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 16th January 2014 until 13th February 2014. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the Order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than 13th February 2014. Please state the ground on which they are made.

If no such representation or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 16th day of January 2014
Director of Development Services
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT



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'RUGBY CHAMPIONS CUP NO THREAT TO THE SIX NATIONS'

In the Back Page Comment article last week you state that "the points at issue can be narrowed down to the declared intention of the ... regions ... to break away from the Heineken Cup".

I have a different view – the main point at issue is that the £9m of tournament income referred to later in the article is almost entirely unconfirmed.

Approximately two thirds (£6m) of the £9m is from European Club Rugby (ECR) which organises the Heineken Cup and Amlin Cups. The English clubs and the French clubs have withdrawn from the ERC.

It is highly unlikely that the Heineken Cup will take place next year; if it does, it will be a devalued competition. That puts most or possibly all of the £6m at risk.

The remaining one third of the rest of the tournament income (£3m) comes from the TV rights for the Pro12 league.

There is a rumour that the two Italian teams, which pay £3m to participate, will pull out next year; the sponsor, RaboDirect, is withdrawing and there is no sponsor for 2014/15 in place; and the BBC have not yet renewed the TV contract – they are waiting for the current impasse to be sorted before committing themselves. That puts most or possibly all of the £3m at risk.

If there is no European competition and the Pro10 (as it could be) is devalued, then the intensity of the games will diminish (except for Welsh derbies), players will not develop and fewer people will watch, resulting in less income and sponsorship potential for the regions.

But Welsh players need to be playing high intensity games week in, week out to ensure the success of the national team.

Fundamentally, most of the £9m tournament income and other income of the regions is at risk. The clubs looking to withdraw from ERC is a consequence of that – it is not being done through choice. The regions face financial meltdown if they don't do something about it.

Then there's the £6.6m received directly from the WRU. This is made up of £2.4m core grant, £2.4m for non-Welsh qualified players, £0.6m to

READER'S VIEWPOINT

contribute towards the academies and £1.2m as compensation for releasing Wales players for extra training and extra matches not sanctioned specifically by the IRB test window.

It's not much to help retain our best players in Wales, who can earn up to £500,000 in France. It's also less than the £10m with which the Irish Rugby Union fund their provinces.

There's a lot of debate about how we got to this point. The regions are not blameless. They have made some poor coaching and management appointments in the past, but have made improvements recently, particularly with capable chief executives in place. The WRU is not blameless either. It has sent out mixed messages and appears to have a focus on control.

One example is development of rugby in the community. The article states the regions' wider role and responsibilities have been "an abject failure". That's an opinion.

The opposite view is that the WRU has not encouraged regions to forge better relationships with local clubs. Andrew Hore, chief executive of the Ospreys, wants closer ties with community clubs, but has been reported as saying that he has been "told repeatedly" by the WRU that they should not be involved with "the community game". There's two sides to every story.

One final point before I summarise, and that is to define what is meant by "the rank and file who ... form the bulk of Welsh rugby". This also is not clear cut! Apart from those who aren't interested, there are four types of rugby followers in Wales:

Followers of the national team who come out for the Six Nations and sometimes for the autumn internationals (nothing wrong with that). They tend to form their opinion on what they read in the headlines.

Supporters of the four regions, who desperately want higher intensity and passionate games (this is where I am).

Supporters and members of the 320 WRU affiliated clubs (not 132 as stated in the article). They

are committed to their community game. Many do not have an allegiance to their region. Some can't stand the regions. Some are WRU through and through. Others do not want to rock the WRU boat because of the funding and ticket allocation they receive.

A mixture of the above three types of followers.

It's complicated! But it's useful to know where commentators on Welsh rugby are coming from when listening to them or reading their views.

So, in summary:

£9m of tournament income for the regions is at risk and they have no control over that.

The Rugby Champions Cup could secure and increase funding into the Welsh game. It could also increase funding to the Irish clubs and protect the Scottish clubs. Bringing in £12m in three years into the Welsh game does not threaten the Six Nations or bring about its demise.

The WRU has a business model, based on the primacy of the national team – but no real vision for the game at grassroots that is inclusive and excites all supporters.

The model has succeeded so far, but it is fragile as it requires ongoing success for the national team which is, to a large extent, dependent on the supply and control of international players which is now under threat.

History shows that any form of central control is not sustainable in the long term.

The regions want to be successful. They might not be the best managed clubs, but it is disingenuous to claim that they are badly managed when they are hamstrung by the straitjacket of the WRU participation/service agreement and having to play in a half-baked league.

Welsh derbies aside, there's marginal kudos in the Pro12, playing in half-empty stadia with depleted teams at unsocial kick-off times.

More crowds, passion and intensity at club level is what I want. I hope others do too. If we get that, the rest might fall into place.

Terry Dennis, St Hilary.

Local players selected for Welsh squad



TWO players from the Vale Ladies & Girls Football club were recently celebrating a great achievement by being selected for the girls Welsh regional squad.

Jasmine Rowley (under-14) and Anais Trincl (under-12) have been impressing coaches at the South Wales Performance Centre and were rewarded with a call up to the regional training camp held at the end of December at the Dragon Park National Centre in Newport.

Both players have worked extremely hard to get to this stage and are now just one tier behind the national setup, with both looking to progress to full international honours in the coming years.

The club are extremely proud to have representation at the Welsh regional level and the girls are following in the footsteps of previous club players, Chloe Jones, Gwennan Davies, Rebecca Egerstrom and Georgia Pelpow, to get selected.

Girls football is becoming more and more popular each year and there are lots of development opportunities for players wanting to progress as well as opportunities for those just wanting to play for fun. The club which pride themselves in giving the girls the very best opportunities and inspiring experiences which is evidenced in our end of season presentation which will be held at the Cardiff City Stadium in May.

"We also enter festivals during the summer months which has included trips into England."

"The club are always recruiting new players so if you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact us on 07832 273688, or email valegirlsfc@gmail.com."

LW

Did you know you can find The GEM on Twitter? @gem_news

CH

Ladies teams pay tribute to Tim



Sully ladies.



Vale ladies.

IT was derby day in the Cup as Sully ladies (sponsored by Just For Nailz) hosted the Vale ladies at Sully Sports.

The game was played in honour of Tim Healey, a local businessman who sadly passed away recently - he was a prominent figure in the success of Sully's girls football team over the years.

He sponsored the team for years and as a mark of respect the girls wore his

kit for the match instead of their usual kit.

Both teams held a minute's silence for the great man who will be sadly missed.

The final score was Sully 3 Vale 1

Ladies football is on the increase with local teams Sully ladies, Vale ladies and Dinas Powys all with strong squads; if you would like to try football come to a training session on Tuesday, from 8pm at the Bryn Hafren Astro Turf pitch.

SB

Celebration for a Brynhill stalwart

RIGHT: Shirley O'Donovan and her daughter Helen.

ON January 7, Brynhill ladies celebrated Shirley O'Donovan's 80th birthday, arranged by her daughter Helen and aided by Gemma.

She has been a member of the club for 55 years, played for the first team for 40 years, been club champion 12 times, and held every office.

More than this, 'Our Shirl' has been so supportive in all club activities and helpful to all lady golfers.

Tributes were made by Jan and Carol, and poems



read by Joy and Pam. We had sing songs organised by Helena, accompanied by Liz on the piano.

Old videos were found of the 'Bryntiller girls' of the 90s, and Shirley singing and dancing 'The

Good Ship Lollipop' which she repeated, and not a step out of place!

A wonderful night was enjoyed by 53 ladies, and we're looking forward to her 90th.

Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS O DAN DOEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIF 2, SAINT HILARI) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013

Ar 21 Tachwedd 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod a wnaed o dan Adran 119 Deddf Prifffydd 1980.

Effeith y Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd, fydd gwyro'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd sydd wedi'i egluro yn yr Abodiad Isod ac a weir ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r Gorchymyn a map y Gorchymyn wedi'u gosod, a cheirw eu weld yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeiriad isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm, yn ystod yr wythnos o 16 Ionawr 2014 hyd 27 Chwefror 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 16 Ionawr 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilyniad y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddiarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o lewngwedd Deddf Prifffydd, yntau na ddyfynfuriad i gofynion y Deddf neu reoladau a wnaed o dan y gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cas i'r Uchel Lys o dan bennagraff 2 Abodiad 2 o'r Deddf drwy wneud paragraff 5 Abodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn gyntaf.

Dyddiedig 16 Ionawr 2014
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 2 ST HILARI) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2013

On the 21st November 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the address below from 9.00am to 4.00pm on weekdays from 16th January 2014 until 27th February 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 16th January 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order wishes to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 16th January 2014
Director of Development Services
Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN (AC EITHURIO GORCHYMYN DIDDYMU HANLIAU O DAN DOEDDF CAFFAEL TIR) DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 5 SAINT DUNWYD) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2013

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod, a wnaed ar 19 Rhagfyr 2013, o dan Adran 119 o Deddf Prifffydd 1980, yn gwyro Lwybr Cyhoeddus Rhif 5 Sain Dunwyd o gyflinad A-B (NGR 294008 167887 i NGR 293938 167897) i gyflinad C-D-B (NGR 294012 167906 i NGR 293938 167897) fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copi o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'i storparu, a cheirw eu weld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Gwerth brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Dylid nodi eich sylwadau ac unrhyw wrthwynebiad sydd gennych i'r gorchymyn, a'u hanfon at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT ar y 13 Chwefror 2014. Dylid nodi eich sylwadau dros eu cyflwyno.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i lawr neu os caiff y rheol dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rheddi i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddilysrheidiol.

Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidog Cyrru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau hys tynwyd yn ôl, yn casl eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 16 Ionawr 2014
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfa'r Doc, Docksau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER (OTHER THAN AN ACQUISITION EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 5 ST DONATS) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2013

The above order, made on the 19th day of December 2013, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert Public Footpath No 5 St Donats from the alignment A-B (NGR 294008 167887 to NGR 293938 167897) to the alignment C-D-B (NGR 294012 167906 to NGR 293938 167897) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 13th day of February 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 16th day of January 2014
Director of Development Services
Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT




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ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

Book tells of secret war role for farmer

A NEW book, *A View From The Main Ring - A Farmer's Journey*, written with the help of Gaina Morgan, tells the hitherto untold story of Vale farmer Dillwyn Thomas.

Dillwyn, who is something of a legend in Welsh point-to-point circles, and who farmed the land at Laleston that the Llangeinor Hunt used to hold its annual point-to-point races on, has bred, owned and trained many point-to-point winners over the years.

Cariff Princess, Summer Days II, Prince Haven II and *Cefn Solomon* are just a few of his popular performers that come quickly to mind.

Dillwyn was a steward at point-to-points for 25 years and on one famous occasion, his late wife Barbara made a little bit of Welsh hunt racing history by standing in for the official race commentator who had failed to turn up at a west Wales meeting. It was the first time anyone could remember a female commentator at a point-to-point!

Earlier this year, Dillwyn, aged 88, was presented with a silver medal by Prince Charles at the Royal Welsh Show, when he retired after 50 years of working in the main ring.

He has recently been in the news after he revealed that during the last war, he was a member of a secret group referred to by Winston Churchill as the British Resistance Organisation.

Dillwyn was a member of the Margam Auxiliary Unit and had trained as an officer cadet at Llandovery College during his school days.

He said: "I was a member of the Homeguard Mounted Unit when I was suddenly approached by the Government and asked whether I had map reading and compass skills, which I did.

"They were looking for someone who knew Margam, the land and area, like the back of their hand."

Dillwyn, having lived on the family farm at Margam, was an ideal candidate.

Port Talbot's Margam Castle had been identified as a potential headquarters for German troops, and Dillwyn was trained at Coleshill House, Wiltshire, in the arts of guerilla warfare, assassination, unarmed combat, demolition and sabotage.

He said: "The next thing I knew I was signing the Official Secrets Act, alongside five other local lads who all worked on the Margam estate."

If the Nazis had attacked Margam, Dillwyn's unit members had orders to destroy a number of key targets, road and rail networks, water and electricity supplies.

Luckily for us, Dillwyn, whose wife Barbara was a leading lady rider in the 1950s, didn't get chance to use his army skills.

A well-respected livestock farmer, Dillwyn has now published his autobiography in collaboration with journalist Gaina Morgan, who has known him since she was a young girl.

His life and experiences have spanned the extraordinary changes of the 20th century, from the days when manual labour and horse power drove the production of food to today's computer chips and satellite systems.

Dillwyn campaigned for weight allowances for young horses in point-to-points, and he saw his wish come true in 1979.

A View From The Main Ring costs £10 plus £1.40 p&p and it can be obtained by phoning Gaina Morgan on 07872823366 or by e-mailing: gaina@morganmedia.co.uk.

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

HYBRIDS are all very well but they're generally smaller than traditional cars, and therefore less user-friendly.

Well, at least that used to be the case with the likes of the Honda CR-Z.

The largest was a hatchback, either a Toyota Prius or the more luxurious Lexus CT200h. No estates.

Well, not until Toyota launched the new Auris Hybrid Tourer, which really does provide the environmentally conscious with a well-sized, capable vehicle but also performance.

Things have really moved on since I drove a hybrid a year ago.

My first acquaintance with the striking island blue estate is at night.

It's always more of a challenge to drive a car you're unfamiliar with when it's dark, for obvious reasons.

A click of the keyfob and I'm inside. The delivery driver was fairly short by all accounts as my knees are around my neck as I sit in the driver's seat. It's easy to adjust.

In common with other

hybrids, I am instantly struck by a feeling of fear as I rummage around for the ignition and even though I push the button start on the right of the steering wheel, there is an unnerving silence.

The automatic box really does not look very substantial but on engaging the reverse function it quietly moves backwards.

There is an electric parking brake and a traditional one; the first car I have come across with two.

The dashboard looks a bit boxy, especially where the sat nav is located; it looks like an after thought.

Over time, the driver does become more used to it, though. It's a large car, not dissimilar to the Ford Focus estate in terms of styling.

Head on it's attractive and the front looks striking and well-designed.

The large panoramic glass roof that stretches from the front to the back of the vehicle has an electric cover and this, in common with those found in Peugeots, is a winning formula.

It really does make the cabin much lighter when the sun does



The Toyota Auris Hybrid Tourer.

decide to show its face.

Despite its loading carrying abilities, this Auris Tourer still feels a very compact and sporty vehicle to drive.

One complaint is that there is not enough legroom in the front but space in the back seems more than adequate.

If you want to be environmentally friendly, then it will travel a mile or two on ev mode at under 30mph, and I notice there's also a battery mode on the auto box, which has the same effect of engaging ev mode.

While driving in a green way is slower, it does have power when required and there is a more urgent tone to the engine, a bit like a high pitched hum when the

accelerator is kicked to the floor. Toyota claims that it will return over 70mpg but the best I have experienced is 49mpg according to the electronic reading.

Overall, this is the best hybrid I have driven to date; not only is it striking in appearance,

it's fast when required and capable.

Facts at a glance:
Toyota Auris Touring Sports Excel Hybrid 1.8 CVT T&G; new price: £24,390; Top speed: 112mph; 0-60mph: 10.9secs; Economy: 49mpg; CO2 emissions: 92 g/km.

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- 58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi Design 5-Dr.** In silver, 33,000 miles diesel at **£6,495**
- 60 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 SZ3 3-dr.** In burnt orange, 20,000 miles, low insurance **Reduced to £5,995**
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- 08 SEAT Leon 1.6 Stylance.** In met gold, 57,000 miles, stylish family hatch **£5,995**
- 08 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Edge Auto.** In blue, 31,000 mile diesel, in very nice condition **£5,995**
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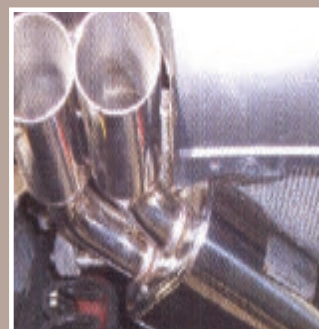
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GEM sport

Dinas Powys make league leaders work for the win

ALTHOUGH glad to be back in action after three blank Saturdays because of waterlogged pitches, Dinas Powys FC would have preferred easier opponents than league leaders Briton Ferry Llansawel - but they certainly made their hosts work hard for the points.

Ferry started the game well and had several chances in the opening 10 minutes, the first came when the ball was laid off to Rory Healey but his effort was wide of the post. This was followed by an attack down the right and a powerful shot by Jordan Edwards, which Dinas keeper James Curtin saved at full stretch.

The visitors began to get into the game with Carlos Indjai causing problems for the Ferry defence down the right wing.

Further chances came Ferry's way again via shots from Edwards and Healey, but Dinas weathered the early storm and began creating some chances of their own, the best of which came in the 22nd minute when a good cross from Indjai was headed just over the bar by Paul Penikett.

Another good chance

for Dinas to break the stalemate came when Indjai was tripped just outside the box, Nicky Bruce taking the free kick which again found Penikett and his powerful shot brought a good save from home keeper Luke Probert.

An attack down the left by Dimitri Fallas then looked promising for Dinas but his cross was just behind Penikett and the chance was gone.

Just before halftime it looked as though Ferry had opened the scoring when Ross Davies hit a tremendous drive in from 20 yards which clipped the top of the bar and went over as the Dinas supporters breathed a sigh of relief and the whistle went for the interval.

Nicky Bruce was shown a yellow card early in the second half for a late tackle, Ferry's Josh Pike took the free kick which Curtin saved fairly comfortably.

Dinas had their player-manager Dave Penikett to thank for a terrific tackle on Ferry's fast, skilful winger Gavin Jones as he broke into the box at speed and was about to shoot.

The hard-working Dinas midfield of James Marr, Paul Dawes and Marc Bonet were getting more possession as the half went on and on the 15 minute mark Dinas took the lead from a

Nicky Bruce free-kick which he drove in low from 22 yards and Ferry's unlucky full-back Ceri Harris sliced into his own net as he attempted to clear.

The hosts then upped their game and Curtin made a great save, tipping the ball over the bar from Steve Dawes' effort.

They were not to be denied however, and with 25 minutes of the half gone they grabbed the equaliser; a cross from the left found the unmarked Gavin Jones at the far post and he slotted the ball home for 1-1.

Five minutes later the league leaders got their noses in front when, under pressure, Curtin could only punch the ball high into his net to make it 2-1 to the leaders.

Dinas then rang the changes, bringing on Luke Swaffield for Indjai and Barry King for Dawes, but time ran out and Ferry took the points, although one of their players was heard to say after the game that Dinas had really battled hard and made them work for their victory.

Their is no fixture at present for Dinas on January 18 but they are looking to get a rearranged game.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 Ryan Garland, 3 Nicky Bruce, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Bloxham, 6 James Marr, 7 Paul Dawes (c), 8 Marc Bonet, 9 Paul Penikett, 10 Carlos Indjai, 11 Dimitri Fallas, 12 Luke Swaffield, 14 Barry King, 15 Dan Jose, 16 Rhys Richards.

PK

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EK

Barry Seconds progress to the next round of Cup

BARRY 2nd XV hosted Old Penarthians for their first game of the calendar year in the second round of the Cardiff and Vale District Cup.

Without the services of manager Ken Chow, who was on 3rd XV duty, coach Rhidian Scott gave a full debut to John Miles, while also recalling captain Nick Rolfe in the second row. Andy Corne made his return from a shoulder injury to make the replacement bench.

So often it was Barry who were short of a long list of players, but this time the role was reversed. Old Penarthians only arrived on the day with ten players, and therefore in order for the game to go ahead, the Barry bench ran out for the visitors.

It was never going to be a true test for the hosts, as they ran out easy winners with the backs running riot. Brad White continued his try-scoring form by running in a hat-trick.

He was also joined in the scoresheet by Dave Williams, himself return-

ing from injury, who managed a brace. Adam Lee and Andrew Buckland also crossed for the home side in what turned out to be a one-sided affair.

Lee also added eight points with his boot to take the final score to 43-5 as Barry progressed to the next round of the competition.

Team: Lee; Poole, Buckland, D Williams, White; Flynn, J Williams; Thomas, Vidal, Lundy; Rolfe (c), Miles; Jones, Goodfellow, Oaten. Replacements: Hosking, Corne, Hewitson, Adams. Man-of-the-match: White

LLANISHEN THIRD XV 14 BARRY

THIRD XV 12

Barry 3rd XV travelled to Llanishen Park in the first round of the Ron Lucock Cup.

Caretaker manager Ken Chow was faced with a selection crisis when six players withdrew within 24 hours of kick off, and he was forced to juggle his resources in order to field a side for the cup tie.

Dave Evans made his return from injury at full back, while Gareth Hall

was moved into the front row. Numerous players were out of position and Chow himself was on the replacements bench.

Despite the disruption Barry began at a ferocious pace. Using a simple tactic of utilising the strong runners, the visitors gained territory in the first quarter of the game, camping on the Llanishen line.

There were good contributions from Elsworth, Hall, Dix and Hollister, creating numerous try scoring opportunities which were unfortunately spurned.

Just when all the hard work seemed to have been in vain, especially when Mike Hamonda was held just short of the line, fly-half Corrigan took an opportunistic quick throw in, which saw Ethan Dix saunter across the line to score underneath the posts.

Corrigan curiously declined the kicking tee for the conversion, and the drop kick sailed underneath the posts. This would prove costly later on.

Barry were dominant in the scrum area with the front row of Houldey, Turnbull and Hall more than holding their own,

while there were encouraging signs in the line-out with captain Lloyd Jones directing matters.

The tide turned towards the end of the half as Llanishen came back into the game after bringing on reinforcements from the substitute's bench. After camping on the Barry line for long periods, they eventually crashed over for a converted score to take the lead.

At the interval the game was finely balanced, and Chow introduced Alyn Evans into the fore at Number 8, and he made instant impact with some barnstorming runs from the base of the scrum. Despite the territory gained, however, Barry seemed to lack the know-how to unlock a determined Llanishen defence.

This was until Corrigan's hopeful punt forward forced an error from the home winger, with Hamonda pouncing gratefully onto the loose ball to score his third try of the season. Ethan Dix took over the kicking duties and stroked over the conversion.

Llanishen introduced yet more reinforcements from the sidelines, which baffled the visitors as they had used more than the allowed number of substitutes. With fresh legs on the field, the hosts garnered the strength and power to

string together a devastating counter-attacking move which saw them score under the posts. With the conversion a formality, Barry found themselves two points down with just ten minutes to go.

Some superb ball carrying by Busuttill, Evans and Hollister saw the visitors edge towards the Llanishen line, and Dix had the chance to win the game with a penalty opportunity but his kick sailed narrowly wide.

Other opportunities were spurned by some Barry ill-discipline, most notably from full-back Evans, but Barry had one last chance when they turned over ball in their own 22 only for them to kick away possession on the last play of the game and the match was lost.

While Barry might reflect on what could have been, the effort by all the players were outstanding and the management was satisfied by the attitude shown by all 17 who took the field.

Barry 3rd XV return to action this weekend away to Whitchurch.

Team: D Evans; Rees, Dix, Hamonda, Adams; Corrigan, Busuttill; Hall, Turnbull, Houldey; Elsworth, Davies; Templeman, Jones (c), Hollister

Replacements: A Evans, E Evans. Sub not used: Chow. Man-of-the-match: Jones. KC

Familiar opposition for Barry chess team

BOTH the Barry and Caerphilly chess clubs have two teams playing in division 1 of the East Glamorgan Chess League.

During the season there will therefore be a total of eight matches between these two clubs with four being played before Christmas and four in the second half of the season.

The first meeting since Christmas took place last week between the stronger teams from each club, the Barry Bosons and the Caerphilly Kings. The teams are organised in order of playing strength as determined by their individual ratings.

So it is with some surprise that I note that in the fifth meeting between the two clubs, we see the fifth meeting between Rhys Steele of Barry and Rod Gough of Caerphilly.

It almost seems that regardless of which other players are selected Rhys and Rod are destined to meet. On this occasion Rhys was the winner; he has now won 3, drawn 1 and lost 1 to Rod this season.

Unfortunately the other members of the Barry team were unable to emulate Rhys' performance, although Steve Cunliffe earned a creditable draw against John Thornton.

Dave Parsons also managed a draw but Lee Davis and Craig Woolcock were less fortunate in their games against very strong opposition to leave us with two points from a maximum of five.

The Camelots also took on league leaders Nelson Rhinos. We had better luck this time with Rhys again earning a win with Lee Davis, Craig Woolcock and Ken Hannah all earn-

ing draws to share the spoils.

There is also an annual new year Congress held at the Heronstone Hotel in Bridgend. This year we had four players taking part - Lee Davis and Craig Woolcock in the open section and Chris Green and Windsor Lewis in the minor section. This was a five round, three day Swiss-style tournament.

In the open section Lee was ranked 12th and Craig 19th and it was a very strong section with 34 entries.

Lee eventually finished with 3.5 points from his five games to finish equal third, only a half point behind the eventual winners; Craig eventually finished on two points in 21st position.

In the minor section there were 19 entries with Chris ranked third and Windsor 13th. Chris turned in a very good performance on what is the nearest chess venue to his home and took four points with three wins and two draws to finish equal top of his section earning a further 38 rating points in the process. Windsor equalled his position in the rankings by finishing with two points in 13th place.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

For more details visit our website at: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ



ABOVE: There were plenty of medals won by the Barry Harriers at the south Wales championships recently.

Harriers are in the medals!

BARRY Harriers recently competed in the south Wales championships at the NIAC in Cardiff.

There were gold medals for Sam Williams in the under-15s boys 1500m, Hannah Jones in the under-15s girls 1500m and Ysabelle Williams in the under-17s women's 1500m.

There were bronze medals for Kaif Rizvi in the under-13s boys 60m, Moses Gee in the under-15s boys 800m, while Emily Ross came seventh in the under-17 women's 200m.

LS

BRIDGE RESULTS

SULLY Bridge Club results:

Monday, January 6, North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Mark Roderick 59.27, 2nd Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 58.22, 3rd Gareth Stone/Brian Gardner 58.04.

East/West - 1st Merion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes 61.74, 2nd Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews 61.55, 3rd Marjorie Morgan/Helen Jordan 58.71.

Wednesday, January 8, North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 67.36, 2nd Peter Craig/Hazell Craig 61.57, 3rd Pat Evans/Roger Cradick

54.17.

East/West - 1st Jayne Greatrex/John Pikoulis 63.66, 2nd Bill Leyburne/Lynne Leyburne 56.25, 3rd Mary Cartwright/Pat Verdon 53.70.

Saturday, January 11, North/South - 1st Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 63.89, 2nd Anne Hilary Jones/Beryl Marke 52.43, 3rd Kay Dyer/Reg Dyer 52.43.

East/West - 1st Pam Sherman/Pat Verdon 61.11, 2nd Frank Stott/Wendy Stott 57.54, 3rd Mary Carwright/Pat Walker 54.76.